

**PROCEEDINGS**  
of the  
**90th NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE**  
**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS**  
**OF THE UNITED STATES**  
[SUMMARY OF MINUTES]

Las Vegas, Nevada

August 18-25, 1989



FEBRUARY 20, 1990.—Referred to the Committee on the Armed Services  
and ordered to be printed, with illustrations.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

27-516

WASHINGTON : 1990

H 200 - 3

**U.S. CODE, TITLE 44, SECTION 1332**

**NATIONAL ENCAMPMENTS OF VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS; PROCEEDINGS  
PRINTED ANNUALLY FOR CONGRESS**

The proceedings of the national encampments of the United Spanish War Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the American Legion, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Veterans of World War I of the United States, Incorporated, the Disabled American Veterans, and the AMVETS (American Veterans of World War II), respectively, shall be printed annually, with accompanying illustrations, as separate House documents of the session of the Congress to which they may be submitted.

[Approved October 2, 1968.]



## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64111  
*January 30, 1989*

HON. THOMAS S. FOLEY,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER:

In conformance with provisions of Public Law No. 620, 90th Congress, approved October 22, 1968, I am transmitting to you herewith the proceedings of the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, held in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 18-25, 1989, which is submitted for printing as a House document.

Sincerely,

HOWARD E. VANDER CLUTE, JR.  
ADJUTANT GENERAL.

(III)

# CONTENTS

|                                                                                                           | Page |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| <b>Annual Memorial Service, Sunday, August 20, 1989:</b>                                                  |      |
| Call to Order .....                                                                                       | 1    |
| Advance of Colors .....                                                                                   | 1    |
| Invocation .....                                                                                          | 1    |
| Introduction of Speaker .....                                                                             | 2    |
| Memorial Address .....                                                                                    | 2    |
| Presentation of the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Bronze<br>Medallion .....                    | 7    |
| Benediction .....                                                                                         | 8    |
| Retiring of Colors .....                                                                                  | 8    |
| <b>27th Annual Awards Luncheon:</b>                                                                       |      |
| Presentation of Awards .....                                                                              | 9    |
| <b>Joint Opening Session, Monday, August 21, 1989:</b>                                                    |      |
| Advancement of Colors .....                                                                               | 12   |
| Invocation .....                                                                                          | 12   |
| Video Presentation .....                                                                                  | 12   |
| Greetings—Honorable Ronald Lurie, Mayor, City of Las Vegas .....                                          | 12   |
| Greetings—Honorable James Seastrand, Mayor, City of North Las Vegas ..                                    | 14   |
| Introduction—Mayor General Drennan Clark .....                                                            | 15   |
| Greetings—Mayor General Drennan A. Clark, Representing Honorable<br>Robert Miller, Governor .....         | 15   |
| Introduction—The Honorable Richard Bryan .....                                                            | 16   |
| Greetings—The Honorable Richard H. Bryan, United States Senator,<br>Nevada .....                          | 16   |
| Introduction of Commander-in-Chief Rivers .....                                                           | 18   |
| Presentation of VFW Gold Medal of Merit and Citation to Ladies Auxilia-<br>ry President Mona Longly ..... | 19   |
| Response—Ladies Auxiliary President Mona Longly .....                                                     | 20   |
| Presentation of Flag Sets .....                                                                           | 20   |
| Presentation of VFW Americanism Award, Gold Medal and Citation .....                                      | 21   |
| Response—The Honorable Silvio O. Conte .....                                                              | 22   |
| Introduction of Lieutenant General Lin Chung-Lien, VACRS .....                                            | 26   |
| Response—Lieutenant General Lin Chung-Lien .....                                                          | 27   |
| Introduction of General Joon-Yeol So .....                                                                | 29   |
| Response—General Joon-Yeol So .....                                                                       | 29   |
| Introduction of Vice-President Dan Quayle .....                                                           | 30   |
| Address—Vice-President Dan Quayle .....                                                                   | 31   |
| Introduction of Carolyn Young McCrimmon—1989 Voice of Democracy<br>Winner .....                           | 37   |
| Response—Carolyn McCrimmon .....                                                                          | 38   |
| Introduction of Supreme Commander of the MOC—Robert Cortright .....                                       | 40   |
| Response—Supreme Commander of the MOC—Robert Cortright .....                                              | 40   |
| Benediction .....                                                                                         | 40   |
| <b>Distinguished Guests Banquet, August 21, 1989:</b>                                                     |      |
| Invocation .....                                                                                          | 41   |
| Pledge of Allegiance .....                                                                                | 41   |
| Introduction of Master of Ceremonies .....                                                                | 41   |
| Presentation of VFW Hall of Fame Award .....                                                              | 43   |
| Response—Wayne Newton .....                                                                               | 44   |
| Presentation of VFW Dwight D. Eisenhower Distinguished Service Award ..                                   | 44   |
| Response and Principal Address—Admiral William J. Crowe .....                                             | 45   |
| Benediction .....                                                                                         | 53   |

# V

|                                                                                                                               | Page |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| <b>First Business Session, Tuesday Morning, August 22, 1989:</b>                                                              |      |
| Salute to the Colors .....                                                                                                    | 54   |
| Pledge of Allegiance .....                                                                                                    | 54   |
| Opening Prayer.....                                                                                                           | 54   |
| Presentation—Adolph Coors Company .....                                                                                       | 54   |
| Report of Credentials Committee .....                                                                                         | 54   |
| Report of Committee on Convention Rules .....                                                                                 | 55   |
| Introduction—Congresswoman Barbara Vucanovich—U.S. House of Representatives, Nevada.....                                      | 56   |
| Address of the Honorable Barbara Vucanovich—U.S. House of Representatives, Second District, Nevada .....                      | 57   |
| Introduction—Governor Robert Miller—State of Nevada.....                                                                      | 59   |
| Greetings—The Honorable Robert Miller, Governor, State of Nevada .....                                                        | 60   |
| Presentation of VFW News Media Award and Gold Medal and Citation to Mr. Drew Middleton, New York Times.....                   | 61   |
| Response—Drew Middleton.....                                                                                                  | 61   |
| Report of Committee on National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual .....                                                  | 62   |
| Introduction—Past Commander-in-Chief Cooper T. Holt.....                                                                      | 66   |
| Presentation of VFW Gold Medal of Merit and Citation to Past Commander-in-Chief Cooper T. Holt.....                           | 67   |
| Introduction of Congressman Lane Evans, United States House of Representatives—Illinois.....                                  | 73   |
| Address by The Honorable Lane Evans, U.S. House of Representatives—Illinois.....                                              | 74   |
| Introduction of The Honorable Edward J. Derwinski, Secretary of Veterans Affairs .....                                        | 77   |
| Address by The Honorable Edward J. Derwinski, Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs .....                           | 78   |
| Report of Committee on National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual (Cont'd.).....                                         | 84   |
| Report of Committee on Finance and Internal Organization.....                                                                 | 88   |
| Report of Committee on Americanism and Community Activities .....                                                             | 99   |
| Closing Prayer .....                                                                                                          | 104  |
| Salute to the Colors .....                                                                                                    | 104  |
| <b>Second Business Session, August 23, 1989:</b>                                                                              |      |
| Salute to the Colors .....                                                                                                    | 105  |
| Pledge of Allegiance .....                                                                                                    | 105  |
| Opening Prayer.....                                                                                                           | 105  |
| Report of Credentials Committee.....                                                                                          | 105  |
| Presentation by Veterans Life Insurance Company.....                                                                          | 106  |
| Greetings by Mr. Anthony Stack, Liaison Officer of the Organization of National Ex-Servicemen and Women, Dublin, Ireland..... | 107  |
| Report of National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee.....                                                                | 109  |
| Presentation of Distinguished Service Medal and Citation to Past Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, Jr.....                    | 113  |
| Response—Past Commander-in-Chief Stock.....                                                                                   | 114  |
| Report of Subcommittee on POW/MIA .....                                                                                       | 114  |
| Presentation of VFW J. Edgar Hoover Award, Gold Medal and Citation ....                                                       | 116  |
| Response by Mr. Jerry Oliver, Assistant Chief of Police, Phoenix, Arizona .....                                               | 117  |
| Report of Veterans Service Committee.....                                                                                     | 119  |
| Presentation of VFW Aviation and Space Award, Gold Medal and Citation .....                                                   | 122  |
| Response—Mr. Arnold Aldrich, Director, National Space and Transportation System.....                                          | 123  |
| Presentation of VFW Armed Forces Award, Gold Medal and Citation .....                                                         | 125  |
| Response—Rear Admiral Jeremy Taylor .....                                                                                     | 125  |
| Report of Veterans Service Committee (Cont'd.).....                                                                           | 127  |
| Introduction of Secretary of Defense Richard A. Cheney.....                                                                   | 130  |
| Address by The Honorable Richard Cheney, Secretary of Defense.....                                                            | 131  |
| Presentation of Parade Winners .....                                                                                          | 137  |
| Awards for Buddy Poppy Sales.....                                                                                             | 138  |
| Report of Veterans Service Committee (Cont'd.).....                                                                           | 139  |
| Report of Committee on General Resolutions .....                                                                              | 158  |
| Benediction .....                                                                                                             | 165  |

## VI

Page

### Third Business Session, August 24, 1989:

|                                                                                                                       |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Call to Order .....                                                                                                   | 166 |
| Salute to the Colors .....                                                                                            | 166 |
| Pledge of Allegiance .....                                                                                            | 166 |
| Opening Prayer.....                                                                                                   | 166 |
| Report of Credentials Committee.....                                                                                  | 166 |
| Announcements .....                                                                                                   | 166 |
| Introduction—Diane Carlson Evans .....                                                                                | 168 |
| Remarks—Diane Carlson Evans, Board Liaison to Veterans Organizations, The Vietnam Women's Memorial Project, Inc ..... | 168 |
| Visit of Ladies Auxiliary Delegation.....                                                                             | 170 |
| Remarks—Ladies Auxiliary President Mona Longly.....                                                                   | 170 |
| Presentation of Certificate of Commendation.....                                                                      | 172 |
| Response—Comrade Joseph Schirmers.....                                                                                | 172 |
| Special Presentation to Commander-in-Chief Rivers .....                                                               | 173 |
| Introduction of Congressman Michael Bilirakis.....                                                                    | 174 |
| Address—The Honorable Michael Bilirakis, U.S. House of Representatives—Florida .....                                  | 175 |
| Introduction of National Home Representatives .....                                                                   | 179 |
| Greetings—1990 Buddy Poppy Boy.....                                                                                   | 180 |
| Address by Maryjane Peck, Executive Director, VFW Home .....                                                          | 180 |
| Address by D. E. Sears, Jr., Vice-President, VFW Home.....                                                            | 181 |
| Address by Arlene McDermott, President, VFW Home.....                                                                 | 181 |
| Nomination of Officers.....                                                                                           | 187 |
| Nomination of Commander-in-Chief.....                                                                                 | 187 |
| Nomination of Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.....                                                                     | 188 |
| Nomination of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief .....                                                                    | 189 |
| Nomination of Quartermaster General.....                                                                              | 192 |
| Nomination of Judge Advocate General .....                                                                            | 193 |
| Nomination of Surgeon General.....                                                                                    | 194 |
| Nomination of National Chaplain.....                                                                                  | 195 |
| Closing Prayer .....                                                                                                  | 195 |

### Fourth Business Session, August 25, 1989:

|                                                                                             |     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Call to Order .....                                                                         | 196 |
| Salute to Colors.....                                                                       | 196 |
| Pledge of Allegiance .....                                                                  | 196 |
| Opening Prayer.....                                                                         | 196 |
| Final Report of Credentials Committee.....                                                  | 196 |
| Introduction of Members of National Credentials Committee .....                             | 196 |
| Completion of Convention Business.....                                                      | 197 |
| Nominations for National Home Trustees .....                                                | 197 |
| Presentation of Contribution for Korean War Memorial.....                                   | 198 |
| Response—Colonel William E. Ryan, Jr., Director, American Battle Monuments Commission ..... | 199 |
| Election of Officers.....                                                                   | 200 |
| Announcement of Council Members-Elect .....                                                 | 207 |
| Remarks by Commander-in-Chief Rivers.....                                                   | 209 |
| Installation of Officers .....                                                              | 210 |
| Presentation of Past Commander-in-Chief Lapel Pin and Gold Life Membership Card .....       | 213 |
| Acceptance Speech by Commander-in-Chief Hogan .....                                         | 213 |
| Parade of Transmittals/Report of New Posts.....                                             | 218 |
| Closing Ceremonies .....                                                                    | 218 |
| Closing Prayer .....                                                                        | 218 |

## APPENDIX

### National Convention Committees:

|                                                                    |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Committee on National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual..... | 219 |
| Committee on Americanism and Community Activities .....            | 220 |
| Committee on Finance and Internal Organization.....                | 223 |
| Committee on General Resolutions .....                             | 226 |
| Committee on National Security and Foreign Affairs.....            | 230 |
| POW/MIA Subcommittee.....                                          | 230 |
| Committee on Veterans Service .....                                | 233 |
| Committee on Credentials .....                                     | 235 |
| Committee on Convention Rules .....                                | 236 |

# VII

Page

|                                                                                                                                             |     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Amendments to National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure Considered by<br>Committee on National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual ..... | 236 |
| Resolutions Considered by:                                                                                                                  |     |
| Committee on Americanism and Community Activities .....                                                                                     | 251 |
| Committee on Finance and Internal Organization .....                                                                                        | 255 |
| Committee on General Resolutions .....                                                                                                      | 257 |
| Committee on National Security and Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA .....                                                                        | 262 |
| Committee on Veterans Service .....                                                                                                         | 271 |
| Reports of National Officers:                                                                                                               |     |
| Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers .....                                                                                                    | 289 |
| Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter G. Hogan .....                                                                                        | 290 |
| Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief James L. Kimery .....                                                                                        | 290 |
| Adjutant General Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr .....                                                                                           | 291 |
| Quartermaster General Herbert W. Irwin .....                                                                                                | 292 |
| Judge Advocate General Victor B. Grandy .....                                                                                               | 301 |
| Surgeon General Raymond W. Schlueter, D.O. ....                                                                                             | 301 |
| National Chaplain Reverend John W. Hosmer .....                                                                                             | 302 |
| Chief of Staff William M. Procter .....                                                                                                     | 303 |
| Inspector General Kenneth L. Hartman .....                                                                                                  | 303 |
| Washington Office Executive Director Cooper T. Holt .....                                                                                   | 303 |
| Assistant Adjutant General (Administration) Curtis M. Jewell .....                                                                          | 305 |
| Assistant Adjutant General (Programs) W. Benny Bachand .....                                                                                | 306 |
| Administrative Services Director John J. Senk, Jr .....                                                                                     | 307 |
| Americanism Chairman John J. Harrow .....                                                                                                   | 308 |
| Buddy Poppy Chairman Eugene H. George .....                                                                                                 | 309 |
| Community Activities Chairman James L. Booth .....                                                                                          | 310 |
| Membership Director Larry Le Febvre .....                                                                                                   | 310 |
| National Civil Service and Employment Committee Chairman R. D.<br>Smith .....                                                               | 312 |
| National Home Board of Trustees President Arlene Mc Dermott .....                                                                           | 314 |
| National Legislative Service Chairman J. P. Cockrill .....                                                                                  | 315 |
| National Security and Foreign Affairs Chairman David L. Stein .....                                                                         | 320 |
| National Veterans Service Chairman Billy Ray Cameron .....                                                                                  | 324 |
| Political Action Committee Chairman John R. Ray .....                                                                                       | 326 |
| Post Development National Chief of Staff William M. Procter .....                                                                           | 327 |
| Post Services Director Thomas L. Kissell .....                                                                                              | 329 |
| Publications and Public Relations Chairman John Lutz .....                                                                                  | 330 |
| Safety Chairman George B. Smith .....                                                                                                       | 331 |
| Voice of Democracy Chairman Fred Sigmon .....                                                                                               | 332 |
| Youth Activities Chairman Donald Nikkel .....                                                                                               | 332 |



# VIII

## VFW NATIONAL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, 1988-89

|                                                                     |                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Commander-in-Chief.....                                             | Larry W. Rivers             |
| Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.....                                 | Walter G. Hogan             |
| Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.....                                 | James L. Kimery             |
| Adjutant General.....                                               | Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr. |
| Quartermaster General.....                                          | Herbert W. Irwin            |
| Judge Advocate General.....                                         | Victor B. Grandy            |
| Surgeon General.....                                                | Dr. Raymond W. Schlueter    |
| National Chaplain.....                                              | Rev. John W. Hosmer         |
| National Chief of Staff.....                                        | William M. Procter          |
| Inspector General.....                                              | Kenneth L. Hartman          |
| Assistant Adjutant General & Executive Dir., Washington Office..... | Cooper T. Holt              |
| Assistant Adjutant General, Administration.....                     | Curtis M. Jewell            |
| Assistant Adjutant General, Programs.....                           | W. Benny Bachand            |
| Assistant Quartermaster General.....                                | James D. Bowden             |
| Director, Administrative Services.....                              | John J. Senk, Jr.           |
| Director, Post Services & Buddy Poppy.....                          | Thomas L. Kissell           |
| Director, General Services.....                                     | David L. Swindler           |
| Director, National Convention.....                                  | Omar Kendall                |
| Director, Membership.....                                           | Lawrence LeFebvre           |
| Director, Americanism & Community Activities.....                   | Raymond N. Price            |
| Director, Post Development & Safety.....                            | Joseph D. Ross              |
| Director, Voice of Democracy & Youth Activities.....                | Jefferson Lawson            |
| Director, Publications & Public Relations.....                      | Wade W. LaDue               |
| Editor, VFW Magazine.....                                           | James K. Anderson           |
| Director, Emblem & Supply Department.....                           | Joe L. Ridgley              |
| Director, Insurance Programs.....                                   | Robert Crow                 |
| Director, Purchasing & Life Membership.....                         | Robert B. Greene            |
| National Service Officer & Dir., National Veterans Service.....     | Frederico Juarbe, Jr.       |
| Director, National Legislative Service.....                         | James N. Magill             |
| Director, National Security & Foreign Affairs.....                  | Kenneth A. Steadman         |
| Director, Public Affairs, Washington Office.....                    | William G. Smith            |
| Director, Political Action Committee.....                           | Charles F. Ball, Jr.        |
| Director, VFW Properties, Kansas City.....                          | William D. Foster           |
| Director, VFW Properties, Washington.....                           | William Callaghan           |
| Administrative Assistant to Adjutant General.....                   | Gordon R. Thorson           |
| Administrative Assistant to Quartermaster General.....              | Gary Housknecht             |
| Administrative Assistant, Washington Office.....                    | Edward I. "Leo" Andrew      |

# IX

## REGIONAL NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION, 1988-89

|                             |                       |                        |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| District 1                  | (ME, NH, VT).....     | Curtis E. Brown        |
| District 2                  | (MA, CT).....         | Theodore R. Eaton      |
| District 3                  | (MD, RI).....         | James R. Rose          |
| District 4                  | (DC, DE, EU).....     | Joseph L. Eckrich, Sr. |
| District 6                  | (IN, MO).....         | George A. Magurany     |
| District 6                  | (WV, VA).....         | on F. Bennett          |
| District 7                  | (TN, KY).....         | George B. Simons       |
| District 8                  | (GA, AL).....         | James L. Allgood       |
| District 9                  | (SC, NC).....         | Henry S. Allen, Sr.    |
| District 10                 | (OK, AR).....         | Robert H. Keys, Sr.    |
| District 11                 | (WI, IA).....         | Charles Arndt          |
| District 12                 | (SD, ND, WY).....     | John L. Mergenthal     |
| District 13                 | (NE, KS).....         | Earl Stiner, Jr.       |
| District 14                 | (MT, WA, ID).....     | Harold E. Meek         |
| District 16                 | (NM, CO, AZ).....     | Christian L. Hammond   |
| District 16                 | (PC PAC, AK, HI)..... | Marion Lasater         |
| District 17                 | (UT, NV, OR).....     | Patrick L. Jordan      |
| District 19                 | (LA, MS).....         | A.O. Cummings          |
| District A                  | (Pennsylvania).....   | Tavio Angel            |
| District B                  | (Illinois).....       | Thomas Morgan          |
| District C                  | (New York).....       | Charles J. Schnobrich  |
| District D                  | (Ohio).....           | John E. Moon           |
| District E                  | (Minnesota).....      | Larr G. Ziebarth       |
| District F                  | (Michigan).....       | Irvin Wendt            |
| District G                  | (California).....     | C.W. Kelly             |
| District H                  | (Texas).....          | Ernest G. Mudd         |
| District I                  | (New Jersey).....     | Robert E. Wallace      |
| District J                  | (Florida).....        | Edwin H. Shuman        |
| Past Comander-in-Chief..... |                       | Earl L. Stock, Jr.     |



Larry W. Rivers  
Commander-in-Chief, 1988-89





**Walter G. Hogan**  
**Commander-in-Chief, 1989-90**

## VFW NATIONAL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, 1989-90

|                                                                     |                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Commander-in-Chief.....                                             | Walter G. Hogan             |
| Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.....                                 | James L. Kimery             |
| Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.....                                 | Robert E. Wallace           |
| Adjutant General.....                                               | Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr. |
| Quartermaster General.....                                          | Herbert W. Irwin            |
| Judge Advocate General.....                                         | Samuel C. Pilato            |
| Surgeon General.....                                                | Dr. Edwin T. Wright         |
| National Chaplain.....                                              | Rev. A. G. Parker           |
| National Chief of Staff.....                                        | Monte D. Hanson             |
| Inspector General.....                                              | Earl Stiner, Jr.            |
| Assistant Adjutant General & Executive Dir., Washington Office..... | Larry W. Rivers             |
| Assistant Adjutant General, Administration.....                     | Curtis M. Jewell            |
| Assistant Adjutant General, Programs.....                           | W. Benny Bachand            |
| Assistant Quartermaster General.....                                | James D. Bowden             |
| Director, Administrative Services.....                              | John J. Senk, Jr.           |
| Director, Post Services & Buddy Poppy.....                          | Thomas L. Kissell           |
| Director, General Services.....                                     | David L. Swindler           |
| Director, National Convention.....                                  | Omar Kendall                |
| Director, Membership.....                                           | Lawrence LeFebvre           |
| Director, Americanism & Community Activities.....                   | Raymond N. Price            |
| Director, Post Development & Safety.....                            | Joseph D. Ross              |
| Director, Voice of Democracy & Youth Activities.....                | Gordon R. Thorson           |
| Director, Publications & Public Relations.....                      | Wade W. LaDue               |
| Editor, VFW Magazine.....                                           | Richard K. Kolb             |
| Director, Emblem & Supply Department.....                           | Joe L. Ridgley              |
| Director, Insurance Programs.....                                   | Robert Crow                 |
| Director, Purchasing & Life Membership.....                         | Robert B. Greene            |
| National Service Officer & Dir., National Veterans Service.....     | Frederico Juarbe, Jr.       |
| Director, National Legislative Service.....                         | James N. Magill             |
| Director, National Security & Foreign Affairs.....                  | Kenneth A. Steadman         |
| Director, Public Affairs, Washington Office.....                    | William G. Smith            |
| Director, Political Action Committee.....                           | James R. Currieo            |
| Director, VFW Properties, Kansas City.....                          | William D. Foster           |
| Director, VFW Properties, Washington.....                           | William Callaghan           |
| Administrative Assistant to Adjutant General.....                   | Russell Cutright            |
| Administrative Assistant to Quartermaster General.....              | Gary Housknecht             |
| Administrative Assistant, Washington Office.....                    | Edward L. "Leo" Andrew      |

# XIII

## REGIONAL NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEMBERS, 1989-90

|                              |                        |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| District 1                   | (ME, NH, VT).....      | Chase M. Libby         |
| District 2                   | (MA, CT).....          | Theodore A. Eaton      |
| District 3                   | (MD, RI).....          | Michael J. Mason, Sr.  |
| District 4                   | (DC, DE, EU).....      | Joseph L. Eckrich, Sr. |
| District 5                   | (IN, MO).....          | William Coleman        |
| District 6                   | (WV, VA).....          | John F. Bennett        |
| District 7                   | (TN, KY).....          | Carl J. Kaelin         |
| District 8                   | (GA, AL).....          | James L. Allgood       |
| District 9                   | (SC, NC).....          | Preston F. Garriss     |
| District 10                  | (OK, AR).....          | Robert H. Keys, Sr.    |
| District 11                  | (WI, IA).....          | Darrel W. Miller       |
| District 12                  | (SD, ND, WY).....      | John L. Mergenthal     |
| District 13                  | (NE, KS).....          | Robert A. Whipple      |
| District 14                  | (MT, WA, ID).....      | Harold E. Meek         |
| District 15                  | (NM, CO, AZ).....      | Lloyd E. Vanderhoof    |
| District 16                  | (PC, PAC, AK, HI)..... | Marion Lasater         |
| District 17                  | (UT, NV, OR).....      | Donald B. Myers        |
| District 19                  | (LA, MS).....          | Joseph Guidry, Sr.     |
| District A                   | (Pennsylvania).....    | Anthony J. Longo       |
| District B                   | (Illinois).....        | George F. Cramer       |
| District C                   | (New York).....        | Joseph T. Gumo         |
| District D                   | (Ohio).....            | John E. Moon           |
| District E                   | (Minnesota).....       | Larry G. Ziebarth      |
| District F                   | (Michigan).....        | Edmund A. Gucwa        |
| District G                   | (California).....      | Earl W. Gunnels, Jr.   |
| District H                   | (Texas).....           | Earnest G. Mudd        |
| District I                   | (New Jersey).....      | Vincent J. Tamburino   |
| District J                   | (Florida).....         | John E. Hamilton       |
| Past Commander-in-Chief..... |                        | Larry W. Rivers        |

## COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

(Including societies that amalgamated to form Veterans of Foreign Wars)

(The Veterans of Foreign Service and the Army of the Philippines amalgamated at Denver, CO, August 1913, forming the Veteran of Foreign Wars as it is today. However, the birth of the order dates from September 29, 1899, when the first national officers were elected and the eligibility clause adopted. The original chapter was granted October 11, 1899.)

### American Veterans of Foreign Service

|           |                        |                                                |
|-----------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1899-1900 | James C. Putnam *      | Elected at Columbus, Ohio.                     |
| 1900-1901 | Maj. Will S. White *   | Elected at Columbus, Ohio.                     |
| 1901-1902 | Maj. Will S. White *   | Elected at Columbus, Ohio.                     |
| 1902-1903 | James Romanis *        | Elected at Washington Courthouse, Ohio.        |
| 1903-1904 | James Romanis *        | Elected at Cincinnati, Ohio.                   |
| 1904-1905 | James Romanis *        | Elected at Cincinnati, Ohio.                   |
| 1905-1906 | George Metzger *       | Elected at Altoona, Pennsylvania.              |
| 1906-1907 | Charles H. Devereaux * | Elected at Cincinnati, Ohio.                   |
| 1907-1908 | David T. Nevin *       | Elected at James Exposition Grounds, Virginia. |
| 1908-1909 | J. Alfred Judge *      | Elected at Lebanon, Pennsylvania.              |
| 1909-1910 | J. Alfred Judge *      | Elected at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.           |
| 1910-1911 | Robert G. Woodside *   | Elected at Jersey City, New Jersey.            |
| 1911-1912 | Robert G. Woodside *   | Elected at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.         |
| 1912-1913 | Robert G. Woodside *   | Elected at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.           |

### American Veterans of Foreign Service

(Eastern Branch)

|           |                            |                                      |
|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1903-1904 | Capt. Robert S. Hansburg * | Elected at Altoona, Pennsylvania.    |
| 1904-1905 | H.O. Kelly *               | Elected at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. |

(The above two organizations amalgamated September 1905, at Altoona, Pennsylvania.)

### Army of the Philippines

|           |                          |                                  |
|-----------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1900-1901 | Gen. Francis V. Greene * | Elected at Denver, Colorado.     |
| 1901-1902 | Gen. Irving Hale *       | Elected at Salt Lake City, Utah. |

(XIV)

### Army of the Philippines—Continued

|           |                          |                                     |
|-----------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1902-1903 | Gen. Irvin Hale *        | Elected at Council Bluffs, Iowa.    |
| 1903-1904 | Gen. Charles King *      | Elected at St. Paul, Minnesota.     |
| 1904-1905 | Gen. Wilder S. Metcalf * | Elected at St. Louis, Missouri.     |
| 1905-1906 | Col. Alfred S. Frost *   | Elected at Chicago, Illinois.       |
| 1906-1907 | Gen. Arthur MacArthur *  | Elected at Des Moines, Iowa.        |
| 1907-1908 | Capt. H.A. Crow *        | Elected at Kansas City, Missouri.   |
| 1908-1909 | Maj. P.J.H. Farrell *    | Elected at Galesburg, Illinois.     |
| 1909-1910 | Col. Charles L. Jewett * | Elected at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. |
| 1910-1911 | A.H. Anderson *          | Elected at Chicago, Illinois.       |
| 1911-1912 | F. Warner Karling *      | Elected at Detroit, Michigan.       |
| 1912-1913 | F. Warner Karling *      | Elected at Lincoln, Nebraska.       |

### Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

|           |                         |                                        |
|-----------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1913-1914 | Rice W. Means *         | Elected at Denver, Colorado.           |
| 1914-1915 | Thomas Crago *          | Elected at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.   |
| 1915-1916 | Gus Hartung *           | Elected at Detroit, Michigan.          |
| 1916-1917 | Albert Rabin *          | Elected at Chicago, Illinois.          |
| 1917-1918 | William Ralston         | Elected at New York, New York.         |
| 1918-1919 | F. Warner Karling *     | Elected at Minneapolis, Minnesota.     |
| 1919-1920 | F. Warner Karling *     | Elected at Providence, Rhode Island.   |
| 1920-1921 | Robert G. Woodside *    | Elected at Washington, D.C.            |
| 1921-1922 | Robert G. Woodside *    | Elected at Detroit, Michigan.          |
| 1922-1923 | Tillinghast Huston *    | Elected at Seattle, Washington.        |
| 1923-1924 | Gen. Lloyd M. Brett *   | Elected at Norfolk, Virginia.          |
| 1924-1925 | John H. Dunn *          | Elected at Atlantic City, New Jersey.  |
| 1925-1926 | Fred Stover *           | Elected at Tulsa, Oklahoma.            |
| 1926-1927 | Theodore Stitt *        | Elected at El Paso, Texas.             |
| 1927-1928 | Frank T. Strayer *      | Elected at Providence, Rhode Island.   |
| 1928-1929 | Eugene P. Carver *      | Elected at Indianapolis, Indiana.      |
| 1929-1930 | Kezekiah N. Duff *      | Elected at St. Paul, Minnesota.        |
| 1930-1931 | Paul C. Wolman *        | Elected at Baltimore, Maryland.        |
| 1931-1932 | Darold D. DeCoe *       | Elected at Kansas City, Missouri.      |
| 1932-1933 | Adm. Robert E. Coontz * | Elected at Sacramento, California.     |
| 1933-1934 | James E. Van Zandt *    | Elected at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.       |
| 1934-1935 | James E. Van Zandt *    | Elected at Louisville, Kentucky.       |
| 1935-1936 | James E. Van Zandt *    | Elected at New Orleans, Louisiana.     |
| 1936-1937 | Bernard W. Kearney *    | Elected at Denver, Oklahoma.           |
| 1937-1938 | Scott P. Squyres *      | Elected at Buffalo, New York.          |
| 1938-1939 | Eugene I. Van Antwerp * | Elected at Columbus, Ohio.             |
| 1939-1940 | Otis N. Brown *         | Elected at Boston, Massachusetts.      |
| 1940-1941 | Joseph C. Menendez *    | Elected at Los Angeles, California.    |
| 1941-1942 | Max Singer *            | Elected at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. |
| 1942-1943 | Robert T. Merrill       | Elected at Cincinnati, Ohio.           |
| 1943-1944 | Carl S. Schoeninger *   | Elected at New York, New York.         |
| 1944-1945 | Jean A. Brunner *       | Elected at Chicago, Illinois.          |
| 1945-1946 | Joseph M. Stack *       | Elected at Chicago, Illinois.          |
| 1946-1947 | Louis E. Starr *        | Elected at Boston, Massachusetts.      |
| 1947-1948 | Ray H. Brannaman *      | Elected at Cleveland, Ohio.            |



## Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States—Continued

|           |                         |                                        |
|-----------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1948-1949 | Lyall T. Beggs *        | Elected at St. Louis, Missouri.        |
| 1949-1950 | Clyde A. Lewis          | Elected at Miami, Florida.             |
| 1950-1951 | Charles C. Ralls *      | Elected at Chicago, Illinois.          |
| 1951-1952 | Frank C. Hilton         | Elected at New York, New York.         |
| 1952-1953 | James W. Cothran *      | Elected at Los Angeles, California.    |
| 1953-1954 | Wayne E. Richards *     | Elected at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.       |
| 1954-1955 | Merton B. Tice *        | Elected at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. |
| 1955-1956 | Timothy J. Murphy       | Elected at Boston, Massachusetts.      |
| 1956-1957 | Cooper T. Holt          | Elected at Dallas, Texas.              |
| 1957-1958 | Richard L. Roudebush    | Elected at Miami Beach, Florida.       |
| 1958-1959 | John W. Mahan           | Elected at New York, New York.         |
| 1959-1960 | Louis G. Feldman        | Elected at Los Angeles, California.    |
| 1960-1961 | T.C. Connell            | Elected at Detroit, Michigan.          |
| 1961-1962 | Robert E. Hansen        | Elected at Miami Beach, Florida.       |
| 1962-1963 | Byron B. Dentry         | Elected at Minneapolis, Minnesota.     |
| 1963-1964 | Joseph J. Lombardo      | Elected at Seattle, Washington.        |
| 1964-1965 | John A. Jenkins *       | Elected at Cleveland, Ohio.            |
| 1965-1966 | Andy Borg               | Elected at Chicago, Illinois.          |
| 1966-1967 | Leslie M. Fry           | Elected at New York, New York.         |
| 1967-1968 | Joseph A. Scerra        | Elected at New Orleans, Louisiana.     |
| 1968-1969 | Richard W. Homan        | Elected at Detroit, Michigan.          |
| 1969-1970 | Raymond A. Gallagher    | Elected at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. |
| 1970-1971 | Herbert R. Rainwater    | Elected at Miami Beach, Florida.       |
| 1971-1972 | Joseph L. Vicites *     | Elected at Dallas, Texas.              |
| 1972-1973 | Patrick E. Carr         | Elected at Minneapolis, Minnesota.     |
| 1973-1974 | Ray R. Soden            | Elected at New Orleans, Louisiana.     |
| 1974-1975 | John J. Stang           | Elected at Chicago, Illinois.          |
| 1975-1976 | Thomas C. Walker        | Elected at Los Angeles, California.    |
| 1976-1977 | R.D. Smith, Jr          | Elected at New York, New York.         |
| 1977-1978 | Dr. John Wasyluk        | Elected at Minneapolis, Minnesota.     |
| 1978-1979 | Eric Sandstrom          | Elected at Dallas, Texas.              |
| 1979-1980 | Howard Vander Clute, Jr | Elected at New Orleans, Louisiana.     |
| 1980-1981 | T.C. Selman *           | Elected at Chicago, Illinois.          |
| 1980-1981 | Arthur Fellwock         | Succeeded T.C. Selman, Oct. 21, 1980.  |
| 1980-1981 | Arthur Fellwock         | Elected at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. |
| 1982-1983 | James A. Currieo        | Elected at Los Angeles, California.    |
| 1983-1984 | Clifford C. Olson       | Elected at New Orleans, Louisiana.     |
| 1984-1985 | Billy Ray Cameron       | Elected at Chicago, Illinois.          |
| 1985-1986 | John S. Staum           | Elected at Dallas, Texas.              |
| 1986-1987 | Norman G. Staab         | Elected at Minneapolis, Minnesota.     |
| 1988-1989 | Larry W. Rivers         | Elected at Chicago, Illinois.          |

\* Indicates deceased.



**SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 90th  
NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE VETERANS  
OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
LAS VEGAS, NV, AUGUST 18-25, 1989**

**ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 1989**

[The Memorial Service of the 90th Annual Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, held at the Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada, was called to order on Sunday, August 20, 1989, at 9:00 o'clock a.m., with Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers presiding. The Gold Star parents, Gold Star wives, National Officers and Past National Chaplains were escorted by the Department of Nevada Ladies Auxiliary.]

**CALL TO ORDER AND ADVANCE OF COLORS**

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. This Annual Memorial Service will come to order. Sergeant-at-Arms, prepare to advance the colors.

[Whereupon, the VFW National Honor Guard advanced the colors, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by the audience and the Nellis Air Force Choir singing "On Eagle's Wings."]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. I request that the National Chaplain preside.

National Chaplain HOSMER. The Invocation will now be given by Reverend Fletcher Harris of the Unity Baptist Church.

**INVOCATION**

Reverend FLETCHER HARRIS. It is good to be here to share in this memorable occasion. We thank God for this beautiful day, and you can trust He is here with us in Las Vegas. I would like for each of us to reach out and touch someone's hand next to us as we go to God in prayer.

Unto Thee, Oh, God, we lift up our hearts, our minds, our souls, our total being unto Thee. Oh, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Oh, Eternal God, our Heavenly Father, the ever-present Lord of history whose presence others have envisioned in a land where people live together in peace and harmony and fulfillment that you intended for all people everywhere.

Oh, God, hear our prayer today, and our God who has established the nations of this world and this great nation, United States of America, we thank you today for those who have sacrificed their lives to make this sovereign commonwealth possible. We thank you, Oh, God, for the decisions they made, for the faith they exemplified and for protection they provided for us all.

We thank you, Oh, God, for their lives and sacrifices they made in the preservation of freedom and domestic tranquility. Enable us, Father, God of thy Holy Spirit, to continue to be an instrument of love, foster good will and peace among mankind everywhere, so that others following may also be blessed.

We remember all of those who sacrificed and we wait in Thy presence and in the moving of Thy Holy Spirit in our lives to a greater degree. Oh, God, our maker, keeper, savior of our life, in Thy name we pray. Amen.

[Whereupon, the assembly sang "Nearer, My God, To Thee."]

[National Chaplain Hoemer presided during the Memorial Services performed by the National Officers in accordance with the Ritual. At the conclusion of the Memorial Service, the assembly sang "America.")

#### INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. It is a pleasure for me to introduce our Memorial Service speaker, a distinguished gentleman from the great State of Massachusetts, who was appointed the Chief of Chaplains for the United State Air Force in December, 1988.

Our invited guest was ordained in the Catholic Church for Archdiocese of Boston in 1952, and served in various parishes for 11 years.

In 1963, he entered active military service as a Catholic Chaplain for the United States Air Force. With over 26 years as a military chaplain, his assignments have taken him throughout the world.

His military decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honor for me to present to you the Chief of Chaplains for the United States Air Force, Major General John P. McDonough.

#### MEMORIAL ADDRESS

Major General McDONOUGH (Chief of Chaplains, United States Air Force). I am grateful to Commander-in-Chief Larry Rivers, and to the National President, Mona Longly, for this great opportunity to share these moments of honor to our comrades who now rest in the Lord.

I attend many such conferences, conventions throughout the United States and the world, and outside of the Chaplains for each of the military services, I know of no other organization that begins their convention with a Memorial Service. You ought to be commended for this sacred and hallowed tradition.

I do represent and bring the greetings of hundreds and thousands of the men and women who serve on active duty continuing the highest standards of military service and devotion set by you in the past years.

Before I begin my formal remarks, I would like you to sense the spirit of the presence this morning in this center of two other groups of comrades.

First, the families and men whose faith as POW/MIA's continues to haunt our country, and our brothers and sisters who continue to

serve in our Veterans Hospitals offering to heal the wounds of body and spirit as their ongoing service to our country.

We are all present with you this day to honor our comrades in service. We are of all people most fortunate to be living in this period of history.

In 1976, we celebrated the 200th anniversary of our country; this year the 200th anniversary of the Constitution, the guideline and the lifeline of freedom and justice for all Americans. In December, 1991, two years from now, the 200th anniversary of the Bill of Rights, and God willing, all of us will be alive in 1992 when we celebrate the 500th anniversary of Columbus' findings of a new world, the Americas.

This morning, my brothers and sisters, we gather to remember another great part of our history, the service of time and life given by our comrades in the defense of our nation, to bring from the edge of our memories the lives and sacrifices of our comrades in arms, to take this hour of comments to honor all of our veterans who now rest in peace with their maker.

For us of the great religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, remembrance is the central act of our faith. We are a people who recall again and again the great things God has done for us. We remember.

Our inner spiritual strength, our faith comes from some event in the past that our memory brings into the present, and that memory for a believer becomes the actual presence of the Almighty God in our every day life.

In a Moslem faith, each believer is required daily to read the Koran, an Arabic word meaning recitations. It is much like our Christian and Jewish scriptures, a little smaller. These are the words that God spoke to Mohammed, the Prophet, over 1,300 years ago when God asked him to remember them and recite them daily so as to stay close to the creator. Each devout Moslem daily reads and remembers and lives in the presence of that God through his memory.

On Passover, the feast of freedom for so many of our Jewish brothers and sisters present here this morning, the youngest son in the Jewish home asked, "What do you mean by the service? Why are we standing around this table dressed as if we are going on a journey?"

The oldest at the table said to him, and then they quote the words that God spoke to Moses, the country of Egypt, "Speak to the whole community of Israel and say to them on the tenth day of this month that each man take a lamb for his family. This is the way you must heed it. You shall have your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand, and you must eat in urgent haste. It is the Lord's Passover. On that night, I shall pass through the land of Egypt and kill every first born of man and beast, thus will I execute judgment, I, the Lord, against all the Gods of Egypt, and as for you, the blood will be a sign on the houses in which you are; when I see the blood I will pass over you. Mortal blow shall not touch you when I strike the land of Egypt. In urgent haste you came out of Egypt and thus as long as you live you shall remember the day from your coming out of Egypt."

All devout Jews remember each year that night when freedom was given to them. For obeying God's command, each Jew becomes free again, 1988, 1989, 1990, by living in the presence of the God brought back through memory.

For those of us who are Christians, we know that on the eve of his death that Jesus broke bread and shared it with his Disciples. St. Paul, 25 years after that fateful Thursday evening, writes to some Christians in the Greek City of Corinth.

"The tradition which I handed on to you came to me from the Lord himself. That Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread after giving thanks to God, broke it and said, 'This is my body which is for you. Do this in memory of me.'

"The same way he took the cup out of the sepulcher and said, 'This is the cup of the new covenant sealed by the blood. Whenever you drink this, you will remember.' "

Each Christian remembers that first communion service obeying Christ's demand. All of us who are Christians live our life in the presence of Christ, both back from the past into our present life.

Now, for us we gather this morning as veterans to remember our comrades. Remember this year two very special anniversaries. We recall with honor the role played by American servicemen and women in the First World War, starting 75 years ago this month, and the Second World War begun 50 years ago on the 1st of September, 1939.

Who we are and why we are here, what we are seeking to tell our country, all flows from history, from remembering, from recalling. The past is not dead, it continues to live in you and me. What you say, how you think has as much to do with how you remember.

I share with you that word "memorial", "remembrance", "memory", because I believe our comrades at rest are speaking to us this morning of the need to nurture, to till very carefully the earth of patriotism from which the fruit of honor and devotion is given to those who died as defenders of our country.

Last year's brochure on the National Veterans' Service, I found this statement: "One of the founding principles of our great organization, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, is service to our comrades and fellow veterans."

I can only add one personal principle, that each one of us prepare the young to honor the veterans, to encourage our children to be willing to make the commitment of service, yes, even of life, as our comrades have done in the past.

To keep sacred the memory of our departed comrades, we must accept as the goal of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and all veterans that our children must be taught how to remember. They must learn to bring from the memory of past events the sacrifice and commitments of our veterans.

In our nation, as in our religions, our memory brings the past to the present. Memory for us this morning is not the past alone, not just a repetition of customs, traditions and prayers, as we are taking part in this morning's beautiful ceremonies.

We must make an actual bridge to present that spirit of love of country which touched those in France, Vietnam and Guadalcanal. May we bring food to the soul of the nation. Our brothers and sisters resting in silent formation in Hawaii or Arlington Cemetery,



our Civil War veterans resting beneath stones in Boston or Atlanta, not always straight and sometimes illegible by age, the sailors resting in their steel monument in Pearl Harbor, all proclaim a challenge to us, safeguard what we have done, honor us by carrying forward our cause.

Making certain days as holy days only guarantees that the halls are filled with our souls, and our highways are choked with traffic. But it doesn't guarantee remembering our veterans. Let's now plant the seed of memory, of remembering, in our young.

I had the privilege last Memorial Day taking part in the services in Dorchester, a part of Massachusetts which is my birth place. The majority of the marchers, including myself, were from around the Second World War.

Moving through the city from each memorial stone to another, I could sense that within a few years their bodies would not be able to fulfill what their spirits so much wanted to do, to march as a sign of honor to those with whom they served in their country's armed forces.

People in cars, living their ordinary lives, seemed to be upset or unaware of why we older men were holding up traffic with our parade. The flags were more numerous than on an ordinary day, but less than what you would expect on a Memorial Day.

We, who sit here this morning listening to this poor creature trying to find words to describe our feelings, are giving our deceased comrades the gift of time, the tribute of prayer, but need we look at the coming years, who will keep alive the dream of freedom and justice to which the sacrifice of life was made throughout our small world?

Whose memory will bring to life from the past the lives and sacrifices of you, our veterans? Who will bring that spirit that needs always to be present so that our nation can be secure that this dream of Americans can still live?

I saw the answers to these questions when I celebrated the fortieth anniversary of the invasion of France by the allied forces. The Memorial Services were held over three days at different points in Normandy where so many of you came ashore to free France, where comrades died in the defense of our freedom and world peace.

The weather was terrible. Slashing rain rolled in from the Atlantic, and wind drowned out the words of politicians and the military. But there was a lesson taught that day. Older and elderly men followed the tri-colored flag of France and the stars and stripes of the United States.

Women, farm women wrapped in oilskin, shepherded the children, and the children with their hands wet and cold in the rain touching and crushing the early summer flowers, flowers for the headstones of so many American dead. Honor and devotion given by adults, but the memories seared in the minds of the children was worth every squishy step, that of which these memorial cemeteries are written.

In each of these villages, much has not changed since the early 1940's. I would say nothing. But the young were learning from the past, the memory of so many soldiers from so many nations who freed their nation.

There is only one road to defend our nation, our freedom, and that is the road of costs, of risks and of commitments. For each generation that takes up the banner of safeguarding our land, there is no safe, swift and easy road. They will need to die, parlay with those that we may disagree with, to speak, search for peace with every means available.

But the support and strength to do that, the power to defend will come from the memory of those who have gone before and have fallen when the last resource of freedom is used on combat.

I have spoken much of memory, of remembering in these thoughts. I do not speak of them as if we are to live only in the past. As you know, Americans are never frozen in the past, we are a forward-looking people.

We face the world with that phrase and do. We hitch our wagons to the stars. As believers, we know that the goodness and the promise of God grants to us peace and joy now and forever in the future.

What I seek to share with you is the call of the veterans that we honor today, our beloved comrades now resting in peace. They are asking you and me to insure that we remember our veterans. They make sure that our country is prepared to always give unmeasured devotion and unconditional commitment to the work of liberty and independence.

The statues in your parks back home, the long, black marble slab in Washington, D.C., the granite monuments in every part of America must be more than idols of curiosity for small islands of green and peace in a crowded city.

The lives of the men and women represented by these monuments must be present at all times to our youth. Commitment, personal courage, a willingness to serve the country's needs, these are simple, clear and unselfish ideas. They have stood the test of time and the changing world, and they must be part of the life and fiber of our young Americans.

It is 16 years since our country as a whole faced a war. Almost two generations of our young children and youth have grown up without much of an awareness of the role of veterans in our country. A gift of the lives of these retired veterans are too often easily forgotten and seldom make the news.

The U.S.S. *Stark*, the Marine at Beirut, the U.S.S. *Iowa*, they make our evening news for a few days and then softly disappear. I would ask you to continue to remember our veterans, but as importantly, to burn into the memory of our young who the veterans were and what they did. They must remember.

Throughout the Civil War cemeteries in the South, an epitaph attributed to General E. Lee is found on graves of many of the unidentified soldiers. "None know who they are but all know what they were."

The call comes from your comrades in rest that we insure all know what they were. May God be with our fallen comrades as with you.

[At this time the Nellis Air Force Chapel Choir sang "America, The Beautiful.")



PRESENTATION OF THE CHAPEL OF FOUR CHAPLAINS LEGION OF HONOR  
BRONZE MEDALLION

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief WALTER HOGAN. The names of four Chaplains—Lieutenants George L. Fox, Clark V. Poling, John P. Washington and Alexander D. Goode—will never be forgotten. Chaplains Fox and Poling were Protestant Ministers. Chaplain Washington was a Roman Catholic Priest. Chaplain Goode was a Jewish Rabbi. Although their religious traditions differed, they were united in the spirit of sacrifice that was their foundation.

When the Army Transport, the *Dorchester*, was torpedoed and sunk in the North Atlantic off Greenland in February, 1943, they gave their life jackets to others in hopes those lives would be saved. The four Chaplains perished in the icy waters. A postage stamp was issued in their honor.

In Philadelphia, the Chapel of Four Chaplains preserves their memory for all posterity. Here to present the Commander-in-Chief with the Chapel's Legion of Honor Bronze Medallion is Colonel Archie T. Roberts, USA (Retired), Staff Chaplain at the Chapel of Four Chaplains. Colonel Roberts.

Colonel ARCHIE T. ROBERTS. Thank you, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief. Commander-in-Chief Rivers, Madam President Longly, General McDonough, Distinguished Guests, My Fellow Comrades and Sisters:

Certainly what powerful warning this is in the sharing together this beautiful Memorial Service and the powerful warning our speaker shared, and it stirs me to be a part of honoring and carrying us on that remembering and memory that our speaker said is so greatly important.

Soon after the Chapel of Four Chaplains was founded in 1950, not only to commemorate the act and remember those four Chaplains that our Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief mentioned, but also to honor and remember the memory of those 674 of the 904 persons aboard that ship who gave their lives, but to share and to carry on, to help future generations remember, as our speaker said.

So the Board of Directors very early on established a Legion of Honor program to recognize especially the leadership and commitment of persons across this country who have given of themselves, self-sacrificing of their service and of their time, and this commitment to serving their fellow men and women without concern for themselves, sharing in that faith, not asking, not looking to see whether someone was Catholic, Protestant, Methodist, Baptist, Lutheran, or what have you, not looking to see if they were black, white, or native American, or Italian or anything else.

So with the chapel establishing the Legion of Honor to recognize those individuals, they established it at various levels. One of the levels that they have established is a bronze medallion of the Legion of Honor to recognize someone who has had an impact at a national level.

So seeing what has been done this last year in carrying on the commitment and the dedication with those kind of spirits involved, the Commander-in-Chief was nominated, and went to the Board of Directors and was selected to represent you, as your leader, in receiving the Legion of Honor Bronze Medallion for this past year.

So it is an honor and privilege, Commander-in-Chief, to have you come forward at this time to present the Legion of Honor's Chapel of Four Chaplains Bronze Medallion to Larry W. Rivers, VFW Commander-in-Chief, 1989, and inscribed on the back is for God and Country, for unity and concern of all veterans of all mankind for all time.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Chaplain, I want to thank you very much. It will be greatly appreciated and I will try to wear this with honor and pride and live up to the dictates and the mandates of the award. Thank you very much.

#### BENEDICTION

Reverend EMANUEL WASSON (Bethel Methodist Church). This indeed has been a beautiful service. I would like to thank all the officers of this beautiful organization, my brothers and sisters of the cloth, and my brothers and sisters in Christ for this opportunity to serve you and to share with you this beautiful occasion.

When you leave this Convention, I pray that your hearts will burn within you a desire to go back to your respective homes and communities and lift up your fellow man, remembering that they are those who have given their lives for this country and for us.

I challenge you with these words. Hear what Christ is saying. "Thou shalt love thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul and with all thy might." This is the first and great commandment, and the second is live unto it. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." On these two commandments hang all the law of the prophets.

Now, the Lord bless us and keep us, the Lord cause his face to shine upon us and to be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us and give us peace, now and forever, and that all of God's people say, Amen.

[Whereupon, "Taps" was played.]

#### RETIRING OF COLORS

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. National Sergeant-at-Arms, prepare to retire the colors. Ladies and gentlemen of the audience, will you remain, please, after the retiring of the colors to allow the National Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the Gold Star parents, Gold Star wives and the Past National Chaplains from the room. Thank you.

[Whereupon, the retiring of the colors was performed by the VFW National Honor Guard.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. This concludes the 90th Annual Memorial Service. Thank you.

## 27TH ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON HONORING ALL-AMERICAN COMMANDERS AND NATIONAL PROGRAM WINNERS

BARRON BALLROOM, LAS VEGAS HILTON HOTEL

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 1989

Larry W. Rivers, Commander-in-Chief, and Mrs. Mona Longly, National President, Ladies Auxiliary, were Host and Hostess of the 27th Annual Awards Luncheon, 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

The Invocation was given by Reverend John W. Hosmer, National Chaplain.

The menu for the luncheon has half cantaloupe and lime wedge, baked ham with pineapple sauce, candied yams, green peas, rolls and butter, white chocolate mousse with bittersweet chocolate curls, and beverage of choice.

Toastmaster for the event was James L. Kimery, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

After presentation of the awards for the National Program Winners and All-American Commanders, Reverend John W. Hosmer, National Chaplain, gave the Benediction.

### PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

#### NATIONAL PROGRAM WINNERS

**AMERICANISM**—Post 6587 and Ladies Auxiliary, Spring Lake Park, Minnesota; District 3 and Ladies Auxiliary, Department of Texas.

**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**—Post 5666 and Ladies Auxiliary, Flushing, Michigan; Post 9619 and Ladies Auxiliary, Morningside, Maryland; Post 8437 and Ladies Auxiliary, Enon, Ohio.

**LOYALTY DAY**—Post 5290 and Ladies Auxiliary, Conyers, Georgia; Allegheny County Council and Ladies Auxiliary, Department of Pennsylvania; District 2 and Ladies Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota; Department of Connecticut and Ladies Auxiliary.

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES**—Post 2775 and Ladies Auxiliary, Orange, Texas; District 7 and Ladies Auxiliary, Department of Arizona; Department of Florida and Ladies Auxiliary.

#### ALL-AMERICAN DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS

James R. Rowoldt, California.  
George Palmateer, Colorado.  
John J. Grogan, Connecticut.  
Ronald L. Mosher, Jr., Delaware.  
James W. Carlisle, Florida.  
John F. Gwizdak, Georgia.  
Roger Schwieso, Iowa.  
Clyde H. Hatcher, Kansas.  
Ray Hensley, Kentucky.

Ashton J. Dronet, Louisiana.  
James M. McGuire, Maryland.  
Edmund Gucwa, Michigan.  
Johnnie Sartor, Mississippi.  
Robert Frankenberg, Nevada.  
George J. Lisicki, New Jersey.  
Ross R. Henry, New York.  
Glenn Milliman, North Carolina.  
Gerald L. Kraus, Pacific Areas.

Armondo C. Azzinaro, Rhode Island.  
Ned L. Johnson, South Carolina.  
R. P. "Mickey" Locke, Tennessee.  
George B. Sparkman, Texas.

Wayne R. Camley, Vermont.  
Kenneth J. Vitale, Virginia.  
Neal Van Wieringen, Washington.  
Donald Cunningham, Wisconsin.

#### ALL-AMERICAN COUNTY COUNCIL COMMANDERS

Elwood C. Lyndaker, Mohawk-  
Adirondack, New York.

Richard Ciacchi, Cuyahoga, Ohio.  
Craig Swartz, Firelands, Ohio.

#### ALL-AMERICAN DISTRICT COMMANDERS

Bill Kelley, 1, California.  
Steve Jacobs, 3, California.  
Irving M. Davies, 17, California.  
John A. Grimes, III, 20, California.  
William Tobin, 23, California.  
Cyprien Cyr, 3, Connecticut.  
Norman V. Kaczmarek, 4, Florida.  
Frank W. Bower, 7, Florida.  
Charles T. Snyder, 8, Florida.  
O'Neil B. Mathews, 11, Florida.  
Thomas A. Donnelly, 19, Florida.  
T. D. Culpepper, 6, Georgia.  
Jeff Lawson, 2, Kansas.  
Donald R. Mellon, 4, Kentucky.  
Edgar Troutman, 8, Kentucky.  
Richard Burgess, 10, Louisiana.  
John J. Gistedt, 14, Maryland.  
William F. Leonard, 16, Maryland.  
Harmon B. Lewis, 1, Mississippi.  
Roy Colston, 13, Mississippi.  
Barry Caster, 10, Nebraska.  
Bruce MacTaggart, 8, New Jersey.  
Arthur M. Williams, Jr., 13, New Jersey.

James Wilson, 3, New York.  
Edmund A. Davis, 4, New York.  
Paul Williams, 5, North Carolina.  
Amon F. Harris, 8, North Carolina.  
Henry Shackleton, 7, Ohio.  
Danny Crow, 9, Ohio.  
Fondo Finley, 11, Ohio.  
Clarence Barton, 5, Oklahoma.  
Roy Vier, 8, Oklahoma.  
Mary F. Miklosey, 3, Pacific Areas.  
Charles A. Clay, 6, Pacific Areas.  
Garland K. Riley, 10, Pacific Areas.  
Noe Olivarez, 18, Texas.  
Edward Z. Rodriguez, 20, Texas.  
Johnny Molina, 25, Texas.  
Johnny J. Sotello, 27, Texas.  
Richard LeMay, 5, Vermont.  
James W. Rickard, 1, Virginia.  
James J. Dillard, 9, Virginia.  
Richard J. Kerch, 10, Virginia.  
Emanuel Besel, 7, Washington.  
Allan Hardtke, 10, Wisconsin.

#### ALL-AMERICAN POST COMMANDERS

Raymond C. Sisk, 97, California.  
Stephen C. Hignight, 1267, California.  
David M. Huerta, 2001, California.  
Jack E. Carleton, 2111, California.  
William K. Seay, 2924, California.  
Robert S. Fontenot, 5394, California.  
Sylvester J. Barricella, 6024, California.  
John P. Howard, 9650, California.  
Gerald R. Rhoads, 1, Colorado.  
Henry Reed, 3917, Colorado.  
Herbert D. Purvis, 2380, Florida.  
Dillard Akers, 3064, Florida.  
John N. Fabbro, 4206, Florida.  
Thomas J. Langan, 4289, Florida.  
Edward L. Kelley, 4351, Florida.  
William R. Johnson, 5968, Florida.  
Arthur Wasserman, 6827, Florida.  
Roger G. Thomas, Sr., 6925, Florida.  
Harry Shenloogian, 8696, Florida.  
Edward Saunders, 9184, Florida.  
Raymond W. Clift, 10097, Florida.  
Robert A. Jones, 10285, Florida.  
Walter Gunnell, Jr., 658, Georgia.  
William T. McClure, 4397, Georgia.  
Jesse E. Land, 5032, Georgia.  
Sammy L. Cates, 5290, Georgia.  
Hubert Phillips, 972, Indiana.  
Calvin Ashley, 1114, Indiana.  
Terry Miller, 1655, Iowa.

Wilbur W. Sealman, 2253, Iowa.  
Clinton Hoferman, 6172, Iowa.  
Gordon E. Good, 2993, Kansas.  
James W. Riney, 696, Kentucky.  
Walter Goodman, 1410, Kentucky.  
Joseph W. Chaddic, 2921, Kentucky.  
Roger L. Adams, 10017, Kentucky.  
John J. Peterson, Jr., 10281, Kentucky.  
James A. Johnson, 1736, Louisiana.  
Samuel R. Johnson, 4759, Louisiana.  
Russell G. Dugas, 9822, Louisiana.  
William D. McCallum, 194, Maryland.  
Lester A. Rule, 6506, Maryland.  
Edgar J. Woolfenden, 6694, Maryland.  
John J. Bleyer, 7460, Maryland.  
Thomas L. Kulczak, 8950, Maryland.  
Nicholas Bassetti, 9083, Maryland.  
George E. Clark, 10081, Maryland.  
Dwight M. Watson, 10159, Maryland.  
Joseph R. Gauthier, 544, Massachusetts.  
Henry R. Goodwin, 6712, Massachusetts.  
Thomas C. Kaleel, 1146, Michigan.  
Clarence Fhyrlund, 3839, Minnesota.  
Mark A. Browne, 5555, Minnesota.  
Ivan Bangs, 2539, Mississippi.  
Warren Missler, 4057, Mississippi.  
Bill G. Stansberry, 534, Missouri.  
Terry W. Lambert, 8017, Montana.  
James A. Burns, 2280, Nebraska.



Dale E. Karloff, 8334, Nebraska.  
 Bruce MacTaggart, 2319, New Jersey.  
 Joseph Bennett, 4589, New Jersey.  
 Edward J. Damiano, 6805, New Jersey.  
 Duke Gallagher, 7679, New Jersey.  
 Allan Davenport, 1019, New York.  
 Robert E. Spoonley, 2940, New York.  
 David W. Farmer, 2057, North Carolina.  
 Randolph Johnson, Sr., 8716, North Carolina.  
 Ulysees Lawson, 10290, North Carolina.  
 Mel Felchle, 1326, North Dakota.  
 Charles G. Popke, III, 2529, Ohio.  
 Craig D. Swartz, 2947, Ohio.  
 Paul K. Crosby, 3424, Ohio.  
 William Nicholson, 9927, Ohio.  
 Carl Reed, 10228, Ohio.  
 Jack Nevel, 577, Oklahoma.  
 William H. Willhite, 989, Oklahoma.  
 Gary L. Warren, 2976, Oklahoma.  
 Ronald T. Gignac, 4876, Oklahoma.  
 J. Tyson Dees, 9985, Pacific Areas.  
 Anthony H. Alves, Jr., 10269, Pacific Areas.  
 William J. Costello, 641, South Carolina.  
 Donald E. McKinley, 3433, South Carolina.  
 Daniel Thompson, Jr., 4262, South Carolina.

John A. Hurney, 628, South Dakota.  
 Ray Covington, 1970, Tennessee.  
 John G. Burness, 7175, Tennessee.  
 Joseph A. Murphy, 1475, Texas.  
 William F. McCord, 2773, Texas.  
 Johnnie L. Alexander, 3966, Texas.  
 Vernon R. Friday, 3990, Texas.  
 Frank C. Raines, Jr., 4372, Texas.  
 Jeffrey S. Hillis, 4380, Texas.  
 Pedro Guzman, 5873, Texas.  
 Ira Parks, Jr., 6012, Texas.  
 Shelton G. Meaux, 6384, Texas.  
 M. Z. Gandy, 6796, Texas.  
 Thurmond Hummer, 8577, Texas.  
 Gary M. Sunby, 8919, Texas.  
 Arturo P. Garcia, 8936, Texas.  
 Willard W. Lay, 9181, Texas.  
 Carlos Z. Mugica, 9186, Texas.  
 Robert H. Dean, Sr., 9653, Vermont.  
 Joseph P. Walsh, 392, Virginia.  
 Albert Rodgers, 3103, Virginia.  
 Henry F. Sharp, II, 4809, Virginia.  
 Elster K. Hurley, 6975, Virginia.  
 John E. Sullivan, 9274, Virginia.  
 Robert N. Lamb, 9808, Virginia.  
 Keith D. Ray, 1064, West Virginia.  
 Roger W. Sydow, 388, Wisconsin.

#### NATIONAL SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

First Place—Department of Pacific Areas.

Second Place—Department of Mississippi.  
 Third Place—Department of Kentucky.

#### NATIONAL DEPARTMENT DIVISION WINNERS

Division I—Department of California.  
 Division II—Department of Florida.  
 Division III—Department of Wisconsin.  
 Division IV—Department of Maryland.  
 Division V—Department of Virginia.  
 Division VI—Department of Kentucky.  
 Division VII—Department of Mississippi.

Division VIII—Department of South Carolina.  
 Division IX—Department of Rhode Island.  
 Division X—Department of Delaware.  
 Division XI—Department of Pacific Areas.



## JOINT OPENING SESSION

MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 1989

[The Joint Opening Session of the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the 76th National Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary, was called to order on Monday, August 21, 1989, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. in the Rotunda of the Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada, by Comrade Leslie M. Fry, Past Commander-in-Chief and Chairman of the VFW 90th National Convention Committee.]

### ADVANCEMENT OF COLORS

Chairman FRY. National Sergeant-at-Arms, prepare the room for the advancement of colors.

[Whereupon, the National Honor Guard advanced the colors at this time and the Pledge of Allegiance was given.]

Chairman FRY. I now call upon our National Chaplain, the Reverend John Hosmer, to give us the Invocation.

[Whereupon, National Chaplain Hosmer gave the Invocation.]

Chairman FRY. I call your attention to the video presentation that will appear on the screen at the back of the stage.

[Whereupon, the video presentation was made.]

Chairman FRY. In every Convention, we always look to find someone that can tell us more about the city in which we are meeting. So it gives me pleasure to introduce your next speaker, who is from and is the Mayor of Las Vegas, Nevada. He was elected for a four-year term in 1987. He has previously served for 12 years on the City Council.

A native of Los Angeles, Mayor Lurie has been a Las Vegas resident for 36 years. He has chaired or served on numerous local, state and national economic, charitable and professional councils, commissions and civic organizations.

Mayor Lurie has received many awards, including the JC's Outstanding Young Man of the State, the Outstanding Public Official of the State and the Man of the Year from the American Jewish Committee.

It is with pleasure that I present to you the Mayor of Las Vegas, the Honorable Ronald P. Lurie. [Applause.]

### GREETINGS—HONORABLE RONALD LURIE, MAYOR, CITY OF LAS VEGAS

Mayor LURIE. Thank you very much. It is a pleasure to be here this morning to welcome you to your 90th Annual Convention here in Las Vegas. It is also nice to hear all those things that you have done and the accomplishments you have made.

I want to reminisce for a minute about this facility that you are in this morning. This was built when I graduated from high school

back in 1958, with a lot of dissention from many people that said it is too big.

Well, I am here to tell you that where we are sitting today, the next time you come to Las Vegas this will not be here. This will be removed for a \$35 million expansion to our convention facilities that will make us one of the largest convention facilities in the United States.

We are very pleased with that, and knowing now from reading the paper yesterday that we are ranked number five in the United States as far as convention attendance, we are not going to be happy in Las Vegas until we are number one.

I believe that we are making a lot of progress in Las Vegas. We are one of the fastest growing cities in the United States. We presently have in Southern Nevada over 700,000 people who make this their home. By the turn of the century, we estimate we will have one million people living in Southern Nevada, and that takes a lot of work and it is a lot of work to make services available.

In doing that, we are doing a lot to make our community aware of the needs of veterans. In October, we are going to break ground for a new VA Clinic that is much needed here in Southern Nevada, plus the construction and building of a new cemetery in Boulder City and one in Northern Nevada. These things could not have been done without our United States Senator Richard Bryan, who is here, and our Congressman.

That is not all that needs to be done. There is more that needs to be done, not only in Nevada but throughout the United States, to support your needs and to see that you get the proper health care and doctors and nurses are available, plus the facilities to care for your needs.

Hopefully, the resolutions that you are going to be addressing while you are here in Las Vegas are going to be heard loud and clear in Congress when they go back in session.

One other item that I would like to touch on that disturbs me is the decision of the Supreme Court dealing with the desecration of our American Flag. I wish many of the members of the Supreme Court would be here this morning to take part in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Star Spangled Banner and see how we support our American Flag.

Hopefully, Congress will address that issue. I think it is not only an important issue today but for our children. [Applause.]

Now, I would like to say welcome, and while you are here in our city hopefully you will have a chance to see some of our neighborhoods. We are a normal American city. We have one of the largest school districts, one of the finest universities, one of the finest basketball teams.

We also have the Red Rock Canyon area that we think is very beautiful for you to see, Callville Bay, Fort Mead and the Hoover Dam, as well as the other things we have in the hotels. Anything I can do to make your stay here more enjoyable, please feel free to call on me. Enjoy yourselves while you are here and God bless you.

Chairman FRY. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Our next guest is from the city close by, North Las Vegas, and it is the Honorable James K. Seastrand.

He is serving in his second consecutive four-year term as Mayor of North Las Vegas, Nevada, where he has been a resident for 30 years. He also serves as Chairman of the Nellis Air Force Base Civilian Military Council and is Vice-Chairman of the Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority Board of Directors.

He is a graduate of Brigham Young University and a distinguished graduate of Air Force ROTC. He has served in the Air Force and attained the rank of Captain. Over the years, Mayor Seastrand has received numerous awards for his service to youth, religious and civic organizations. His lifetime involvement with the Boy Scouts culminated in receiving the coveted Silver Beaver Award.

It is with pleasure I present to you the Honorable James Seastrand.

GREETINGS—HONORABLE JAMES SEASTRAND, MAYOR, CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS

Mayor SEASTRAND. Ladies and gentlemen, with you I had such a stirring warm feeling as I watched this video presentation. I know you did because I felt it from your hearts as I felt it stirring within me. I thank you for allowing me to be here as a fellow servant of our people and serving this great land of the United States of America.

I served during the winding down time of the Korean War in our wonderful United States Air Force. That gave me a special feeling towards everything that you stand for and that I stand for. Ever since I have been in my community, I have admired the VFW Post, which is located next to our city at the gates of Nellis Air Force Base.

This group, I think it is Post 10007. If I have that wrong, please forgive me. These folks are tremendous, patriotic people. All our VFW people here and all military people really sustain our communities.

Nellis Air Force Base that my city adjoins and this Post I have taken an interest in, you may or may not know that Nellis Air Force Base, just lying north of us here, is the largest and probably one of the most important Air Force Bases in the entire free world. This base is very important to our national security. After many years of secrecy, of course, it was just announced that the Stealth Fighter is headquartered at Nellis.

On behalf of the local Posts and on behalf of the citizens of my city, as well as those who live in the rest of Southern Nevada, and having served as Chairman of the Military Council, I can say thank you for being here. You honor us.

We pledge to you that we will continue to have a showing of as much patriotism as we can for our wonderful United States of America to assist the mission of Nellis Air Force Base. That is a wonderful association we have and we intend to keep it going because we recognize that a strong military brings strength to all of us and protects our families and our homes. Thank you for inviting me.

## INTRODUCTION—MAJOR GENERAL DRENNAN CLARK

Chairman Fry. The next gentleman that I wish to present to you is Major General Drennan Anthony Clark, representing the Governor of the State of Nevada, Bob Miller, who is unable to be with us at the Opening Session.

Major General Clark is the Adjutant General of the Nevada Air National Guard and Director of the Nevada Military Department. He was born in Rochester, New York, and reared in Reno, Nevada. He earned his Political Science and Doctor of Law degrees from the University of San Francisco.

As a member of the Nevada Air National Guard, he was called to active duty during the Pueblo crisis and served in Korea in 1968-1969.

His career in law has included various positions in the Nevada Air National Guard as well as in civilian life. He is currently a Judge Pro Tem of the Reno Municipal Court, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Nevada Law Foundation, and a member of the Nevada Judicial Discipline Commission.

He was appointed Adjutant General of the Nevada Air National Guard in January, 1987. He lives in Reno, and he has five children. I want to add one other thing. I have personally known General Clark since he was in high school at Reno, Nevada. He is a credit to the State of Nevada, he is a one hundred percent American and a great individual.

It is with great pleasure I present to you Major General Clark.

GREETINGS—MAJOR GENERAL DRENNAN A. CLARK, REPRESENTING  
HONORABLE ROBERT MILLER, GOVERNOR

Major General CLARK. Good morning. Past Commander Fry, Senator Bryan, Commander Rivers, Veterans, Auxiliary Members and Guests:

What Past Commander-in-Chief Fry didn't exactly tell you was that I spent the early years of my life, growing up in Reno, Nevada, at his house with his oldest son, Matt. We were the best of friends from about the seventh grade all the way through graduation from high school.

This morning, I am acting for Governor Bob Miller, who could not be with you. On behalf of Governor Miller and on behalf of the Nevada Military Department, I welcome you to Las Vegas, the entertainment capital of the world, and to Nevada, the Silver State, and to, of course, your 90th National Convention.

We hope that you have a wonderful time while here and enjoy yourselves. The weather this time of year in Las Vegas is absolutely magnificent, and the desert scenery and the outdoor activities are limitless.

As Mayor Lurie told you, there are also activities of indoor variety if you are interested in that sort of sport. Now, one of our indoor activities here, you may not have heard of it, it is called holding poker. Holding poker is a game of poker where the participants start out with the same amount of money on the table and you continue to play until one player has won all of the money that there is. He outlasts the rest.



There was a famous holding poker game that was held here fairly recently. The players were a high-priced hooker, a low-priced hooker, Santa Claus, and an honest lawyer.

They played for about 14 hours, and the pots were almost evenly distributed. No one had gained any ground on any of the other players.

They decided they needed a little rest and they agreed they would take eight hours off to get some sleep and have a meal and clean up, and they would leave the money exactly where it was on the table. It was secure. Then they would return and commence their game and finish it off.

Lo and behold, eight hours later, when they returned, all the money was gone. Now, who do you think took the money? The high-priced hooker. The others are figments of your imagination.

Senator Bryan told me on the way in a story, and as lawyers we can share that with Past Commander Fry. Do you know what is black and brown and looks good on a lawyer? A Doberman pinscher.

Well, I know you are very busy and have a full agenda and some very distinguished speakers. Here in Nevada, we are proud you are having with us our Vice-President Dan Quayle, and the Secretary of Defense and Veterans Affairs. We believe our flag is a symbol of our liberty and our freedom, not a symbol of protest.

Please enjoy yourselves while you are here in Nevada. Have a successful convention and remember, keep Nevada green, leave money.

#### INTRODUCTION—THE HONORABLE RICHARD BRYAN

Chairman FRY. I think I should add to the General's remarks that Nevada has one of the finest Air Guards, not only in Nevada but in the United States, and is known throughout the world. So we are very, very proud of that National Guard. We are proud of the General for heading it up.

The next speaker is also a dear friend of mine. I have known him since his college days. He also was quite a visitor in our home. I have watched him develop from a student to a Legislator, to a Governor and as a Senator. As a Senator, he has served on the Senate Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs Committee, the Commerce Science & Transportation Committee and the Joint Economic Committee.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Nevada at Reno and a law degree from the University of California at Hastings.

I want you to also note that we have a good representation of lawyers in this list. It is with pleasure I present the Honorable Senator Bryan.

#### GREETINGS—THE HONORABLE RICHARD H. BRYAN, UNITED STATES SENATOR, NEVADA

Senator BRYAN. Thank you very much, Past National Commander-in-Chief Les Fry. I will tell you as Nevadans we are indeed proud to have Les and Jean Fry as Nevadans. They personify and they exemplify what this great organization is all about.



As Les has shared with you, he and I have been friends since I enrolled at the University of Nevada some 34 years ago. I am proud to call him my friend and I know that each of you as members of this distinguished organization are proud to claim him as a Past National Commander-in-Chief. Les, it is a great honor.

As a newly-elected member of the Congress, I am frequently asked, "What are your impressions of Washington, D.C.?" I think I can best illustrate that by telling a story. Not too long ago there was a social gathering of some import in the City of Boston.

The evening was late, it was dancing, cocktails were served, and an elderly gentleman who had had one too many cocktails, looking across the room said, "I think I am going to ask that ravishing creature across the room to dance with me." He proceeded across the dance floor and approached her and said, "That is a magnificent red gown you have on. May I have this dance?" The response was a curt "no".

Pressing his luck a bit further, he said, "Can you give me just one good reason?" "I will give you three good reasons. Number one, you are very drunk. Number two, my outfit is purple and not red. Number three, I am the Archbishop of Boston."

In the couple of minutes that your distinguished leadership has made available to me, let me amplify the theme that things are not always as they seem. The recent decision by the Supreme Court of the United States does not reflect the views of the Congress of the United States, the views of my fellow Nevadans nor do they reflect the views of the vast majority of Americans in this country. The decision is wrong.

My friends, that decision is going to be corrected by the Congress of the United States because there is a bipartisan majority that feel as you and I do that the decision was wrongly decided and must be corrected. It will be. [Applause.]

Correcting that decision is important. The protection and federation of our flag is important to all Americans, particularly those of us who have had the privilege of serving our country by wearing the uniform of the American services.

As important as that decision is and as important as it is for all of us to stand united and change that ill-considered decision, let me most humbly suggest to you that we ought not to allow that to divert the focus of our attention from another battle.

You are no strangers to the battle, from the beaches of Normandy to the shores of Iwo Jima, from Heartbreak Ridge to the Mekong Delta, you have been there, sacrificed, and many of your comrades are buried on foreign lands.

The battle of which I speak is a battle that must continue in the Congress of the United States and is a battle to secure and protect the medical benefits which each veteran when he or she took the oath of office to represent and serve his or her nation, and that battle is yet to be won in the Congress. We need your help.

I would hope that before this Convention adjourns that you will be able to send us a resolution that strongly reaffirms those principles so that we can get about the business of this nation when the Congress reconvenes in September, and support it.

On a more personal note, may I say that those of you here today that represent the Department of Nevada, the Mayor of the City of

Las Vegas, Mayor Lurie, indicated to you that we are going to have a Veterans Hospital at long last here in Southern Nevada. That battle would not have been won if it wasn't for the outstanding work done by the Department of Nevada. I am very proud to claim them as one of ours as well.

The Mayor also made reference, as did General Clark and others, to some indoor recreational activities. Governor Miller could not be here today, but I am sure that he would want me to correct a misimpression, and that is occasionally it is said that people come to Nevada and lose money. You probably have heard about that.

I am here to tell you on behalf of the Governor that is really not so. I would cite you no less an authority than Webster's Dictionary. Mr. Webster tells us that to lose is not to know where something has gone.

Here in Nevada, you will always know where it has gone, and I know with the sense of patriotism that fills this great hall you would want to know that that money goes to educate young Americans and that you want to return to your homes and tells your comrades and sisters, your friends and neighbors, "I was in Nevada last week and helped to educate the young people of that fine state."

All of us in our state, all of us in the City of Las Vegas and North Las Vegas are very proud indeed that you have chosen our state and our community to host the 90th Annual Convention. I wish you a most successful Convention and look forward as I know all of you do to hear the remarks of our Vice-President later this morning. Thank you so very much.

#### INTRODUCTION OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF RIVERS

Chairman FRY. I would add to what the Senator has stated. Try to keep enough funds on your person so that you can get out of town and get back home.

It gives me further pleasure to introduce the next speaker, who is our leader, the Commander-in-Chief of our great organization, who will guide us through this 90th National Convention.

He is the second Vietnam Veteran elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the man who has spent the last year leading us to our thirty-fourth consecutive year of growth, an individual who has traveled the length and breadth of our nation eloquently bringing our message to the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government and certainly the American public. His theme "We Remember" has and will be our byword for years to come.

Following this Convention, he will assume the duties of Executive Director in our Washington, D.C., office where I am certain he will excel on our behalf in that capacity.

He is a lawyer from Alexandria, Louisiana, and I might add, a golfer of unique ability. I now turn the gavel over to our distinguished Commander-in-Chief, Larry W. Rivers.

[Whereupon, the assembly extended a prolonged rising ovation to Commander-in-Chief Rivers.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you very much. Thank you, everybody. Let me add my welcome to those of Mayor Lurie and

Mayor Seastrand and Senator Bryan, and all of my comrades and sisters, to the 90th Annual VFW Convention, welcome.

Convention time is a unique time for us in the VFW. It gives us the opportunity once a year to do several things, to see old friends and to spend some time together from all parts of this great land, indeed the world, and it gives us a chance to debate and discuss the issues that concern us as Americans and as veterans, and it gives us a time to just have a good time. I urge you to have a good time in Las Vegas.

In between the times when we discuss and debate in the American way the issues we confront in a good-natured spirit of debate for which the VFW has always been known, I invite you to enjoy yourselves, to take a little time and to enjoy this lovely city. Welcome to Las Vegas and welcome to the 90th Annual VFW Convention.

PRESENTATION OF VFW GOLD MEDAL OF MERIT AND CITATION TO LADIES  
AUXILIARY PRESIDENT MONA LONGLY

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Our gracious Ladies Auxiliary National President, Mona Longly, has served us well during her term of office. For 75 years, the Veterans of Foreign Wars has been richly blessed by the presence of its Ladies Auxiliary.

As has been said in all sincerity many times before, I don't know how the VFW could have survived without the assistance of this grand organization, and I cannot think of a more gracious, warm and dedicated woman to lead them through their Diamond Anniversary Year, a year that saw a new peak in membership—a year that saw millions donated for cancer research—millions of voluntary hours spent in Veterans Hospitals, in promoting patriotism and in community work.

Before her election as National President of the Ladies Auxiliary, she was a Post Auxiliary President, District President and President of the Department of Nebraska. She has held many positions on the national level.

Our honored guest has also been quite active in charitable pursuits, education and church-related positions, and political commissions.

A resident, or with her travels this past year, a sometimes resident of Lexington, Nebraska, she, and I might add her husband, have five children and eleven grandchildren. Her appropriate theme for the year "For 75 Years We've Had A Stake In America" also gives some insight as to the type of farm and ranch that she assists in operating.

Her years of outstanding service to the Ladies Auxiliary and the VFW are an undying legacy and it is now my honor to present the VFW Gold Medal of Merit and Citation to Mrs. Mona Longly, National President of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Let me very quickly read the inscription on this citation.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Gold Medal of Merit and this Citation awarded to Mona Longly, National President, Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, 1988-'89.

In special recognition of her untiring dedication to our country and the work of our organization and in grateful appreciation for her enthusiastic leadership as evi-

denced by the significant contributions of the Ladies Auxiliary to our programs and purposes and, by their deeds, fulfilling of their commitment that For 75 Years We've Had A Stake In America.

It is signed by myself as Commander-in-Chief and attested to by the Adjutant General. Congratulations, Mona.

#### RESPONSE—LADIES AUXILIARY PRESIDENT MONA LONGLY

Ladies Auxiliary President LONGLY. Wow! You know, I have a place that I will certainly put that to be displayed for everyone that comes to my home.

To you, Commander-in-Chief Rivers, to the National Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Auxiliary Officers, Comrades, Sisters and Guests:

I really feel very honored to receive this special Veterans of Foreign Wars Award, just as I have been honored to serve as National President of the Ladies Auxiliary during this past year. It has been a landmark year for the Auxiliary as we have celebrated our 75th year of service to America.

I am extremely proud to say it has been a very successful year. Today we can boast of 754,230 members so together with the VFW we are 2.8 million members who are speaking up for the veterans and their families. Now, that is a lot of people saying "We Remember."

My special thanks to all of the members of the VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary for your hospitality extended to me during the year and for your untiring dedication to our organization. You are the ones who make our programs such a success. I am proud to call you my comrades and sisters. Together, we will continue to "Have a Stake in America's Future."

Commander-in-Chief Rivers, it has been indeed a privilege to serve with you. On behalf of all of the members of the Ladies Auxiliary, I congratulate you on an outstanding year and certainly wish you a very successful Convention.

Now, it is my pleasure to introduce the Patriotic Instructor of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Carolyn Oldenburg, for a special presentation.

#### PRESENTATION OF FLAG SETS

Auxiliary National Patriotic Instructor OLDENBURG. Thank you, Mona. National Commander-in-Chief Rivers, National President Mona Longly, Comrades, Sisters and Guests:

Each year at the National Convention the Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars have been given the privilege of presenting an American Flag to the Mayor and Governor of the host city and state of our National Convention. We have been given this honor again this year.

We see the Stars and Stripes every day of the week, but how do we appreciate the flag as being more than just a bright-colored emblem? The Stars and Stripes of the United States is far more than just another national emblem. It is truly a living personality.

If our flag could speak, this is what it might say:

Some people call me Old Glory, others call me the Star Spangled Banner. But whatever they call me, I am your flag, the flag of the United States of America.



Something has been bothering me, and I thought I might talk it over with you, because it concerns you and me. I remember when people would line both sides of the street to watch a parade. Naturally, I would be leading it, proudly waving in the breeze. When your daddy saw me coming, he immediately removed his hat and placed it on his left shoulder so that his right hand was directly over his heart. Remember?

And you, I remember you standing there straight as a soldier. You didn't have a hat, but you were giving the right salute. Remember the little sister, not to be outdone, she was saluting the same as you with her right hand over her heart. Remember?

What happened? I am still the same flag. Oh, I have a few more stars than I used to have and a lot of blood has been shed since those parades of long ago. But now I don't feel as proud as I used to. When I come down the street, you just stand there with your hands in your pockets, and I may get a small glance, and then you look away.

Then I see the children running around and shouting. They don't seem to know who I am. I saw one man take his hat off, look around, and when he saw nobody else had theirs off he quickly put his back on. Is it a sin to be patriotic any more? Have you forgotten what I stand for and where I have been: Valley Forge, Bull Run, the Alamo, the Argonne, Guadalcanal, Korea and Vietnam?

Take a look at the memorial honor rolls of those who never came back to keep this republic free, one nation, under God.

When you salute me, you are actually saluting them. Well, it won't be long and I will be coming down the streets, so when you see me stand straight, place your right hand over your heart and I will salute you by waving back and I will know that you remember.

May the flag that we give today proudly wave. May we honor its presence with the assurance that it does this honor. The flag is our flag. Every color means liberty, every thread means liberty, every form of star, beam of stripe means liberty, not lawlessness but organized constitutional liberty, liberty through laws and laws for liberty. Honor it, respect it, revere it, and most of all \* \* \* protect it.

At this time I would like to invite our National President, Mona Longly, to join me in presenting these American Flags to the Honorable Mayor Ron Lurie, Las Vegas, the Honorable James Seastrand, Mayor of North Las Vegas, and Major General Drennan Anthony Clark, who is representing the Governor. Major General Clark, please see that the Governor receives this flag.

It is with pride that the Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars proudly presents to each of you the symbol of life. Long may they wave. Thank you.

#### PRESENTATION OF VFW AMERICANISM AWARD, GOLD MEDAL AND CITATION

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. It is indeed an honor and a pleasure to have the opportunity to introduce the recipient of this year's VFW Americanism Award, a recipient of our Gold Medal and Citation.

Silvio O. Conte was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and has lived there ever since. Mr. Conte was graduated from Pittsfield Vocational High School in 1940. He served in the Southwest Pacific Theater with the Seabees in World War II.

Under the G.I. Bill, Mr. Conte attended Boston College and received his degree in Law. He established a law practice in Pittsfield and practiced from 1949 to 1958. He was elected to the State Senate in 1950, and to the United States Congress in 1958. Mr.



Conte is now serving his 16th successive term in the United States House of Representatives.

When he arrived in Congress, Mr. Conte secured a seat on the powerful House Appropriations Committee. Since 1979, he has been ranking minority member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health, Human Services and Education; he also has seats on the Transportation and Legislative Branch Subcommittees, and sits ex officio on all other ten Appropriations Subcommittees.

Along with the work he has done on behalf of this nation's veterans, Silvio Conte has been singled out for his work in the fields of transportation, health, conservation, energy and education. He is the second ranking member on the House Small Business Committee and serves on its important Subcommittee of Procurement, Tourism and Rural Development.

President Bush has called Mr. Conte the "Education Congressman." Since having completed his college education under the G.I. Bill, he has fought consistently to ensure that the same educational opportunities are provided for all students.

I would now mention that we of the VFW owe Congressman Conte a special vote of thanks for his heroic efforts in securing the recently enacted Veterans' Dire Emergency Appropriation which prevented a drastic curtailment in health care services to this nation's veterans.

It is now my distinct honor and privilege to present to you the recipient of this year's VFW Americanism Award, the distinguished Representative from the great State of Massachusetts and Life Member of VFW Post 1994, Silvio O. Conte.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Americanism Award, Gold Medal and this Citation, is presented to Silvio O. Conte in sincere appreciation and grateful recognition for his many years of dedicated service on behalf of the citizens of this nation as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives and his untiring efforts in the critical areas of transportation, health, conservation, energy and education.

The Citation was signed by the Commander-in-Chief and attested to by the Adjutant General.

#### RESPONSE—THE HONORABLE SILVIO O. CONTE

Congressman CONTE. Thank you, Commander-in-Chief Larry Rivers, for those most kind and flattering words.

I just came out of Washington and things have been pretty hectic. In fact, Larry mentioned the Emergency VA Medical Care Bill we went through. It took us three months to get that bill through.

It reminds me of the story about an Italian, a Frenchman and an Englishman going down the Congo River on an expedition in Africa and their canoe overturned. They landed on the shores of a village of cannibals, and there in the middle of the village was a pot of water being boiled. The chief of the village said, "the three of you, each has two choices. One choice is to take your own life; the second choice is we can throw you in that pot of boiling water there, and when you are ready we will take you out, we will skin you and use your skin for the bottom of our canoes."

The Englishman decided to take out a stiletto and he stabbed himself in the heart and he said, "Long live the Queen. "The

Frenchman thought it over and he took out his stiletto and started cutting his veins and said, "Viva la France." And the Italian took out his stiletto and punctured his stomach all over.

The Chief said, "What are you doing?" He said, "I am screwing up your canoe." Believe me, they were trying to screw up my canoe for three months, but we prevailed.

Things are so bad out there in Washington, we start every committee meeting with a prayer, which reminds me of a story. This woman, had a beautiful female parrot who had a bad habit. Every time she invited the girls over to play cards, the parrot wanted attention and she would be in a cage and she would start chirping, "I love sex, I love sex, I love sex."

She became very embarrassed about this whole thing and went to see the Parish Priest. She said, "Look, Father, I have this sweet little female parrot, and she has a bad habit. When I invite the girls over to play cards, she wants attention and she starts hollering, 'I love sex, I love sex.' " She said, "I am embarrassed."

The good Father said, "I have got the answer for you. I have two male parrots so well-behaved they sit in their cage all day saying their rosary piece. Bring her over for a weekend and I think they will help her."

She went home and got the cage and brought the parrot over and put it in with the two male parrots. Sure enough, they were over there on their perch saying the rosary piece and she had nothing to do with those two guys. She went over to the other end of the cage. There they are saying their rosary piece, "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with me, our God in heaven."

She couldn't stand it any longer, and she said, "I love sex, I love sex." Both of those guys dropped their rosary piece and they said, "Thank God, our prayers have finally been answered."

On a serious note, I understand that Larry will soon be succeeding to the position that Cooper Holt has held in the VFW for the past 26 years. I know that Larry will continue to build upon his impressive record of service to American veterans as Executive Director of the nation's oldest veterans organization.

Larry has served in a variety of positions at every level of command in the VFW, culminating in his richly-deserved election as National Commander-in-Chief last year. He has been so deeply devoted to veterans service throughout his adult life that people forget he has had to make a living as a practicing attorney. That might not be so bad, considering that lawyers are ranked just behind gangsters and just ahead of IRS agents in current public opinion polls.

I am very proud of Larry, and I know that he will accomplish great things as the Executive Director of your Washington office. Of course, he will have gigantic shoes to fill. Cooper Holt has a record of accomplishments in the VFW to match his longevity as Director.

As many of you know, Cooper was elected as the VFW's Commander-in-Chief at the tender age of thirty-two. He was the youngest Commander-in-Chief in the history of the VFW. Four years later, he was appointed Executive Director, a position he has held ever since.

Cooper is a true institution on Capitol Hill and certainly, in the national veterans community. Cooper, I join your brothers in this great organization in thanking you for a job well done. I think everyone here would agree that you personify the VFW's motto: "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living."

I am deeply and profoundly moved that you have chosen me to receive this Americanism award for 1989. When I joined the Seabees in 1941, I never dreamed that one day I would receive one of the highest honors bestowed by the nation's oldest and most established veterans organization.

It is with extreme pride that I accept this award today. But when I look out across this sea of assembled veterans and their families, and I consider the enormous contributions and painful sacrifices made by this group in the defense of liberty, I am deeply humbled.

To me, the Americanism award represents a validation of my work in Congress by American patriots who share my passion for democracy and my love of liberty. I thank you all for this great tribute.

It has been my privilege to "Help the Living" through thirty-one years of service in the United States Congress. It is a privilege I do not take lightly; for performing the duties of a legislator in a representative democracy is a privilege that veterans, such as yourselves, have defended with their very lives.

I am honored that my constituents have entrusted me with their vote in the U.S. House of Representatives. I will continue to use that vote to ensure that the United States government acknowledges and satisfies its moral obligations to this country's veterans—the men and women who have risked their lives and limbs to preserve our liberty.

It is often said that our national memory of the sacrifices of our veterans dims during peacetime. But now, more than ever, the contributions of our veterans should be celebrated and commemorated. The principles and ideals that you struggled so tenaciously to preserve have bubbled to the top of humanity's consciousness.

From China to the Baltic Republics, democracy is the universal beacon of hope and freedom is the watchword. Your fight has been validated, and the value of your blood, your sweat and your tears has been affirmed in the register of world opinion. Now is the time for us, as a nation, to renew our gratitude to our veterans for their selfless devotion to this country.

And, in fact, there has been a greater focus on our national obligations to our veterans in the past several years. Back in the late sixties and early seventies, very little attention was being paid to the mounting needs of veterans who had so ably served their country.

I became alarmed when I heard from young men returning to western Massachusetts from Vietnam that they were being ignored and neglected by a disinterested bureaucracy. So, when the National League of Cities and Towns and the U.S. Conference of Mayors needed someone to chair a Special Veterans Opportunity Committee to examine veterans issues in 1973, I took the job on behalf of American veterans everywhere.

After taking weeks of testimony—in Newark, in Cleveland, in Cincinnati, in Seattle and other cities—we designed a comprehen-

sive plan to solve those problems. And a great many of our recommendations have been incorporated into programs that are currently serving the veterans community.

Without the active support and involvement of the VFW and others, we would not be where we are today. The progress we have made in attending to the needs of our veterans has been nothing short of spectacular.

In the past few years, the veterans community has enjoyed a number of legislative and policy victories. We have elevated the VA to cabinet-level status; we have enhanced the access of veterans to our courts; we have expanded and strengthened the G.I. education bill; we have reformed the VA Home Loan program for veterans who are homeless, jobless and in need of special services.

Earlier this year, I was proud to lead the fight for the emergency supplemental funding for VA medical programs. After months of negotiations and political infighting, we were finally successful in appropriating \$340 million in new budget authority for VA medical care for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Of course, much work remains to be done, and fiscal reality has replaced political will as a barrier to progress. Secretary Derwinski did recently announce the creation of a special panel to determine how the VA hospital system can improve services during an era of dwindling federal resources. In connection with that study, the Secretary has pledged that none of the nation's 172 VA hospitals will be closed down.

But that is not enough! We need to rebuild the VA hospital system from the ground up to help, serve and honor the men and women who have kept this country free. We need to turn the spotlight on our veterans and keep it shining brightly on them until they are provided with the medical care they need and deserve. That must be our priority in this country.

The veterans of today are the soldiers of yesterday who invaded Normandy, risking their lives to liberate Europe from the clutches of Hitler and the battles at Iwo Jima. In 1989, those veterans need access to life-sustaining medications, and we damn well better provide it.

The veterans of today are the patriots who, forty years ago, landed on Inch'on to face the armaments of Communist aggression. Today, those selfsame veterans cannot afford to wait six months to get an appointment with their medical doctors, and we better speed up the time.

And it seems like only yesterday that the American veteran marched out from Da Nang across the swamps of Vietnam to face snipers' bullets and enemy mines. Today, those veterans urgently need replacements for their worn artificial limbs. This country cannot ignore its moral imperative to attend to those veterans' medical needs. Those veterans fought to preserve our freedom; now we must fight to ensure their security.

For fiscal year 1990, the House Appropriations Committee, on which I serve as the Ranking Minority Member, has recommended a total appropriation of approximately \$30 billion for programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs. This appropriation, which was adopted by the House and sent to the Senate on July 20, includes



\$11.56 billion in new spending authority for the medical care programs of the VA.

This is more than \$1 billion above last year's appropriation for VA medical care. I am committed to restoring the medical care programs of the VA, and I believe this appropriation gives the Department of Veterans Affairs the tools it needs to begin that important job. Accordingly, I will do everything within my power to preserve the VA funding increase as this bill works its way through the legislative process.

These advances, important as they are, fail to adequately reward American veterans for their heroism. That can only be achieved through universal respect and reverence for the American veterans as the architects of our modern era of peace with freedom.

Peace, of course, was never the ultimate object of our battles; peace is achieved more easily by surrender and submission than by war. But freedom—freedom to live life as we choose, freedom to express ourselves without reprisal from the government, freedom to pray to the God in which we believe—is a right worth dying for.

I believe it was Emiliano Zapata, the Mexican revolutionary, who once said, "It is better to die on your feet than to live on your knees."

The VFW's Americanism award is one which I shall always cherish. I am privileged and humbled that you consider me worthy of this high honor. God bless you all, and God bless America.

[Whereupon, the assembly extended a prolonged rising ovation to Congressman Conte.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you very much, Representative Conte. Congressman, we know that you have to leave because your schedule requires your attendance elsewhere. Again, thank you from all of us for your service and please keep up the good work. The American veterans need you now as much as we ever have.

We would like to announce that we are very honored and pleased this morning to have in the audience William P. Putnam and Helen Putnam Blackwell, the son and daughter of our founder, James C. Putnam. Would Mr. Putnam and Mrs. Blackwell stand and be recognized. Welcome.

#### INTRODUCTION OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL LIN CHUNG-LIEN, VACRS

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Each year the Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen headquartered in Taiwan, Republic of China, are represented at our National Convention by their Chairman and a distinguished delegation.

This year, due to the restructuring of the cabinet in Taiwan and the first Congressional Session, Chairman General Hsu Li-nung was unable to be here.

However, we are indeed fortunate and very honored to have with us the Vice-Chairman of the Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen, General Lin Chung-Lien. Please welcome General Lin to the podium.



## RESPONSE—LIEUTENANT GENERAL LIN CHUNG-LIEN

Lieutenant General LIN CHUNG-LIEN. Commander-in-Chief Rivers, Honored Guests, Delegates:

It is a great pleasure for me to attend and address this Opening Ceremony of the Annual National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. On behalf of General Hsu Li-nung, Chairman of the Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen, and all veterans of the Republic of China, I wish to extend to you our heartfelt greetings. This assembly will give you an opportunity to renew old friendships, which were generated on the fields of combat in the defense of freedom and democracy.

This Convention is, in itself, a significant gathering of distinguished veterans. We have all represented our countries in various military activities, and we are now here to voice our support for a just and lasting world peace. No one knows the horrors of war and the disruption of civilization caused by war and strife more than the soldiers; therefore, it is for those of us who have fought for our countries to explain to citizenry the necessity of fostering universal brotherhood among nations to usher in an era of harmony among nations.

Many of us have seen our comrades wounded or killed in action, and we know that our duties to our friends and their surviving dependents do not end with the termination of hostilities. Our veterans organizations have a sacred responsibility to uphold veterans rights and champion veterans benefits.

We are dedicated to these propositions, not for any selfish reasons of our own, but out of the realization that veterans, who have been disabled or who have sacrificed career opportunities in civilian life to serve their countries in military duty, deserve to be treated with dignity and respect after completion of their service.

In recognition of these ideals, the Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen was founded by our late President Chiang Kai-shek, as a cabinet-level commission, on November 1, 1954, to oversee programs designed to assist and resettle veterans. We have concentrated our efforts in the fields of medical care, veterans homes, education and training, employment placement, and child and dependent care.

All of us veterans have fought for national independence, freedom and democracy during our military service. Now that we are retired from active duty, we still have an obligation to continue to advocate for freedom and support the democratic movements around the world.

During the month of May, students on the Chinese mainland began a series of large-scale demonstrations for democracy at Tien An Men Square in Peking.

On June 4, 1989, the Chinese Communist troops launched a vicious attack on the students, which was unprecedented in the history of civilized countries. It was estimated that upwards of 10,000 unarmed students and common people were killed and wounded in the attack. In subsequent incidents, a widespread purge was begun, and many student leaders and their supporters were arrested. Some of those advocating democracy have already been executed.

All nations of the world were shocked by the brutality of the Chinese Communists. President Bush, American Senators, and the people of the United States publicly accused the Communists of cruel and brutal behavior and proposed severe sanctions against the Communist regime.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and high admiration for the American Government and people for their justice and candor in denouncing the crushing of the democratic movement on the Chinese mainland. The horrifying actions of the Chinese Communists fully reveal the vicious nature of Communism.

Although the democratic movement has now been temporarily pressed down, we can clearly perceive the golden rule that no weapons can deter the mainstream of historical development. The democratic movement on the Chinese mainland has awakened all Chinese both at home and abroad, becoming a prelude to the fall of the Chinese Communist despotic regime.

For many years, VACRS and the Veterans of Foreign Wars have maintained a close and cordial relationship, based on the common ideals of veterans' welfare, brotherhood, peace, and social stability. This traditional bond of friendship was formalized in the Brotherhood Agreement, which was signed by representatives of the VFW and VACRS eight years ago. This accord has proved to be an inspiration for the veterans of both our organizations.

We sincerely hope that VACRS and the VFW will continue to have an opportunity to share collective experiences. We at VACRS are anxious to learn of your achievements, so that we may examine new and additional methods of helping our veterans in the Republic of China.

The VFW has consistently passed resolutions in the support of China, which called for the sale of modern, defensive weapons systems to our country, under the provisions of the Taiwan Relations Act.

You have also opposed the transfer of weapons and technology to the Chinese Communist regime, which could be used against America's friends and allies in the Far East. This support and encouragement is appreciated by all the people of the Republic of China.

In closing, I give my highest regards for the success of this Convention, and I wish each of you the best of health, happiness and prosperity.

Thank you very much.

Now, we would like to take this opportunity to make a couple of presentations. The first one is on behalf of the Republic of China. We have a Decoration Certificate for the National Commander-in-Chief. It is my honor to read the Decoration.

Mr. Larry Rivers, Commander-in-Chief, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, has distinguished himself by offering outstanding contributions to the promotion of the friendly relations between the peoples of the United States of America and the Republic of China and to the enhancement of the ties and cooperations between the veterans of our two countries.

In appreciation of his meritorious services, Commander-in-Chief Rivers is according to Article 11 of the Armed Forces Decoration Regulations presented the Order of Cloud and Banner with Cravat by the Government of the Republic of China.

This has been signed by President Lee Teng-hui, Premier Lee Huan, and Minister of National Defense, Cheng Wei-yuan.

Secondly, we take this opportunity to present a silver plaque on behalf of the Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen, Republic of China.

Presented to Mr. Larry W. Rivers, Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, in appreciation of his outstanding contributions for the great relations between the VFW and the Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen.

Signed by General Hsu Li-nung, Chairman of the Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen, this 21st day of August, 1989.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, General Lin Chung-Lien.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL JOON-YEOL SO

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Almost forty years ago, we stood shoulder-to-shoulder with our comrades in Korea on freedom's front line. Together, we shared the hardships and agonies of a war that took a terrible toll not only in lives but the very fiber of a nation.

Since then, we have stood alongside each other, committed to defending the freedom we won. During the difficult days of the Vietnam War, our allies from the Republic of Korea joined us in fulfilling our commitment in Vietnam.

Today, Korea, through the sheer dynamics and energy of its people, has emerged as an economic power basin in that region of the world. It is an achievement in which we share the pride of the Korean people.

However, it remains an achievement that was made possible by the sacrifices of gallant veterans, Americans and Koreans. And it is in that special relationship that we share with the Korean Veterans Association that we take special pride. We know the courage and dedication of those veterans but most of all we know their friendship.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce our Comrade-in-Arms, General Joon-Yeol So, President of the Korean Veterans Association. Comrades, please welcome General So.

#### RESPONSE—GENERAL JOON-YEOL SO

General JOON-YEOL SO. Commander-in-Chief Rivers, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am very honored to have been invited to attend your 1989 Annual National Convention. For myself, and on behalf of all the members of the Korean Veterans Association, I wish to express our deep appreciation for your continuous promotion of the traditionally amicable ties existing between our two Republics, and to convey our warm greetings and friendship.

In particular, I take this opportunity to thank the American people and government, from the bottom of my heart, for bravely enduring great losses while the Republic of Korea was at war, and for your unsparing post-war support and cooperation which has greatly contributed to the security and prosperity of my country.

During the Korean War, the United States provided 5,700,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines; out of these numbers 54,000

made the supreme sacrifice and approximately 103,000 were wounded. Since the armistice, you have given us the strong support needed to maintain security and allow rehabilitation of our land making possible the prosperity and continuing development we enjoy today.

For these sacrifices and your priceless support, all Korean people, especially the four million members of the Korean Veterans Association, will always be grateful. We are anxious to enhance and perpetuate the blood-pledged fraternity forged between our two countries during the battles we fought together.

Dear friends, our nation has achieved great progress, and now in this new era of democracy and self-regulation, we are experiencing many changes in every facet of society. Recently, however, it is regrettable that we hear anti-American sentiment and demands for the pull-out of United States troops from Korea.

These voices and demands are those of a small number of radical activists under the pretext of advancing our democratization. These sentiments are encouraged and instigated by a small number of left-wing rebels but are firmly denounced by the majority of Korean people.

The North Korean Communists often speak of peace but in fact it is only lip service. Given their record of 350,000 incidents of armistice violations and provocations during the past 36 years, there is no doubt that when the opportunity arises, they will not hesitate to use their military power.

Recently, the shocking news that North Korea is building a plutonium factory near Pyongyang was confirmed. This new development intensifies the tension and greatly increases the threat to the Korea-U.S. combined defense effort. At this time, the mission and role of USFK is to help prevent the recurrence of war, ensure a lasting peace and maintain stability in Northeast Asia and the Pacific Area.

I hope you will give us your continued support for these efforts. In closing, I hope your Convention will prove a successful and rewarding one. Thank you.

This plaque is presented to Mr. Larry W. Rivers, Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, in grateful recognition of his dedicated contributions to the support of national security of the Republic of Korea and to the promotion of friendly relations between the two organizations, this 21st day of August, 1989, Las Vegas Nevada.

#### INTRODUCTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT DAN QUAYLE

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Last year at this time, following the excitement of the Republican and Democratic Conventions, I was pleased to introduce to the Veterans of Foreign Wars the candidate for the office of Vice-President of the United States, Dan Quayle.

Today, we are honored to welcome back Vice-President Dan Quayle.

Elected to the U.S. Congress in 1976, Mr. Quayle, in 1980, became the youngest person ever elected to the U.S. Senate from the State of Indiana.



As a United States Senator, Mr. Quayle became widely known for his legislative work in the areas of defense, arms control, labor and human resources. With his service on the Armed Services Committee, the Budget Committee and the Labor and Human Resources Committee, he became an effective Senator respected by colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Vice-President Quayle serves as President of the United States Senate, is a member of the National Security Council, and is the first Chairman of the National Space Council, a space policy body re-established by statute in 1988.

In February, the President named Vice-President Quayle to head the Council on Competitiveness. The Council works to ensure U.S. international competitiveness into the 21st century.

Since taking office, Vice-President Quayle has traveled extensively representing United States interests abroad, especially in Central America.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am privileged to introduce to you the 44th Vice-President of the United States, The Honorable J. Danforth Quayle from the State of Indiana.

[Whereupon, the audience extended prolonged applause.]

#### ADDRESS—VICE-PRESIDENT DAN QUAYLE

Vice-President QUAYLE. Thank you very much. Commander-in-Chief Rivers, Executive Director Cooper Holt, Secretary Derwinski, Congresswoman Vucanovich, Congressman Bilirakis, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the VFW:

First, let me pay my respects and my compliments to your Commander-in-Chief Larry Rivers who has led this fine organization to hits thirty-fourth consecutive year of increasing the membership of the VFW; Cooper Holt, 26 years of service to the VFW; Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Ed Derwinski.

I want to tell you something about Ed. I served with him in the Congress, and when he was in the Congress he was fighting for the veterans and now as Secretary of Veterans Affairs he is still fighting for the veterans in the George Bush administration.

Yes, this is the 90th Annual Convention of the VFW and, Larry, you are absolutely right. I well remember the 89th Convention in Chicago. Many of you were there, and it was my first major non-political speech as George Bush's vice-presidential running mate.

Let me say, my friends, that I was grateful for your support then, I am thankful for the encouragement and assistance that you have given to me and my family during this past year.

Since Chicago, we have had a presidential campaign, there has been an election of a new President, and now seven months of the George Bush administration. During this last year, I have heard many stories and jokes about the office of the Vice-President, and my favorite one has to do with a father.

He had two sons. One went away to sea and the other became Vice-President. Neither one of them was ever heard from again.

When the President spoke to you last year, he pledged to work hard for you and to work hard for positive leadership for America. In seven short months, George Bush has carried out that campaign

promise he made to you in Chicago. We have seen the economy continue to expand, 81 consecutive months of economic expansion.

The President's leadership has unified NATO. He has proposed substantive legislation in the areas of crime and environment. Next month he will propose legislation to fight the war against drugs.

Most importantly, this President has preserved peace for America. He has also provided a renewed sense of decency to leadership, a commitment to the family, a commitment to values, and he has been an inspiration to all of us.

The President knows where his support is, and his support is in this room. It began with the people in this room and I am sure that it will continue with the people in this room. So, my friends, let me thank you for your support and your loyalty to this President, President George Bush.

A great champion of American independence, Edmund Burke, once observed that society is "a partnership not only between those who are living, but between those who are dead, and those who are to be born."

I am proud to be addressing a group of men and women who have understood the requirements of this partnership. Each of you has contributed, directly and personally, to the survival of liberty in the world. Each of you has recognized that in times of national peril, the defense of our country must take precedence over all else—over family, over career, even over personal safety. And each of you merits a special thanks not only from your own generation of Americans, but of all generations to come.

As we thank you, we also can never forget those who have perished in the cause of freedom, and those still missing and unaccounted for. President Bush has designated September 15 as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. The President has reaffirmed that resolution of this issue and the fullest possible accounting of POW/MIAs will remain a matter of highest national priority.

And I wish to acknowledge and pay tribute to the VFW's strong support for the families of POW/MIAs.

Our nation is at peace today, and democracy has made advances. We even see a non-Communist government being formed in Poland. But this does not mean the world does not remain a dangerous place.

This morning, I want to talk to you about a danger in our Hemisphere. I want to talk about a part of the world which is vital to our national security interests, Central America.

The United States is committed to the struggle for freedom and democracy in Central America. We have allied ourselves with the brave citizens of the region who are fighting for a better life against the enemies of freedom.

We must recognize that Central America is in a state of turmoil. The consequences of this turmoil will inevitably affect us. It is therefore clearly in America's interest that the Central Americans succeed in their struggle to achieve true political and economic freedom, and that our common adversaries not be allowed to thwart their drive for democracy.

The news from Central America today is mixed. On the one hand, the democracies continue their consolidation. El Salvador re-

cently achieved its fifth free and fair election since 1982 despite guerrilla violence. Three other countries—Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica—have held democratic elections and soon will hold new elections.

Unfortunately, though, there are exceptions to this democratic trend. In Nicaragua, the Sandinistas maintain a Marxist-Leninist-style party-state apparatus supported by massive military and internal security forces. In Panama, the Noriega regime retains power through force and electoral fraud against the wishes of the Panamanian people. In Cuba, Castro's repression has intensified.

Furthermore, we should note the emergence of a pattern of increasing cooperation between the Sandinistas, Noriega and Castro. Noriega, Castro and the Sandinistas have formed an Axis of dictatorial regimes profoundly hostile to the values which we and the other nations in the Hemisphere cherish.

In addition, Nicaragua continues to aid the Communist guerrillas in El Salvador, contributing to the suffering of the Salvadoran people. Just recently, a major arms cache of Communist bloc weapons sent to the Communist/terrorist guerrillas, the FMLN, was discovered by the security services in San Salvador.

I saw these weapons myself when I visited El Salvador in June. Last month, the Honduran Government uncovered in its territory a large number of Soviet arms destined for the FMLN.

Moreover, the Sandinistas' own military buildup continues. Despite Soviet statements that its weapons deliveries to Nicaragua have terminated, military deliveries for Nicaragua from Cuba and other East Bloc nations in the first half of this year significantly exceeded those of the same period last year. Yes, Nicaragua has received more military aid this year than they did last year.

Why do the Sandinistas need this equipment when a ceasefire has existed in Nicaragua since the spring of 1988, and their opponents have had their arms supplies of 1988, and their opponents have had their arms supplies shut off? These deliveries stand in sharp contradiction to the Sandinistas' proclaimed intention to reduce the size of their security forces, which now are 15 times bigger than Somoza's National Guard.

Let us be clear about what has happened in Nicaragua since 1979. The Nicaraguan people had struggled for their freedom against the Somoza dictatorship, and thousands had given their lives in the name of democracy. But the Sandinistas betrayed their promises to the OAS and to their own people; they hijacked a democratic revolution against Somoza and turned it into a Communist revolution against the Nicaraguan people—against their land, against their church, and against their values.

This betrayal brought an inevitable reaction. Thousands of Nicaraguans—the brave young men and women of the Resistance, the Contras—took up arms to rid their country of this new dictatorship and to fulfill the original promises of the anti-Somoza revolution, while others joined in an unarmed opposition. The Resistance and the internal opposition have continued their struggle for democracy and freedom, and against Sandinista repression.

It was in response to growing pressure that the Sandinistas signed a Central American peace agreement on August 7, 1987. This agreement is known as Esquipulas II, after a regional Summit

meeting in Esquipulas, Guatemala. It established broad regional commitments to democratization, to ceasefires, to amnesty for political prisoners, to an end to aid for insurgent movements, and to the establishment of processes of national reconciliation.

The Sandinistas have professed to accept the Esquipulas framework. They promised elections for February, 1990, which ended the onerous state of emergency, and ended prior censorship of the opposition newspaper. Still, repression has continued, particularly in the countryside.

Sandinista thugs have bullied the opposition. Political opponents have had their property seized, and the leader of the Catholic Church has been vilified. Aid to the guerrillas has increased. The Sandinistas broke off talks with the Resistance and rammed the rules for the 1990 election through their rubber stamp National Assembly.

Let me give you a specific example of Sandinista non-compliance; the provision in Esquipulas II for amnesty for political opponents. The independent Nicaraguan human rights groups report that the jailing of peasants is continuing, and that the number of political prisoners has actually increased since the regional peace agreement was signed two years ago.

Despite the much-heralded release of former Somoza soldiers by the Sandinistas, there are at least 6,000 political prisoners in Nicaraguan jails today, and the government has launched a largely unreported campaign against Resistance supporters in rural areas in recent months.

The United States has worked closely with the Presidents of the Central American democracies in support of the Esquipulas process. We want the Nicaraguan people to be allowed to decide their own future through democratic election. If the Nicaraguan people enjoyed this right today—if the Sandinistas had fulfilled their promises of 1979—then the tragedies of the past decade could easily have been averted.

The United States has acted courageously and withstood a great deal of criticism over the years in helping Nicaraguans who were willing to risk their lives for freedom and democracy in their country. We have remained steadfast behind the objective of promoting our democratic values in Nicaragua.

In pursuit of this objective, this Administration concluded an agreement with the Congress in February known as the Bipartisan Accord on Central America. In that agreement, Congress and the Executive Branch, Democrats and Republicans, committed themselves to support "democracy, peace and security" in Central America. Those continue to be our fundamental goals, and it is toward these goals that we have worked in good faith with Latin American leaders.

Congress has recognized the need to provide the Contras and their dependents with humanitarian aid. This assistance has enabled the 60,000 or so Resistance fighters, family members and support personnel who have found sanctuary near the Nicaraguan border, to avoid starvation and destitution.

It is important to remember that the Bipartisan Accord was intended to maintain the Nicaraguan Resistance and their families in anticipation of the holding of democratic elections next Febru-



ary in Nicaragua. We have a commitment to the Nicaraguan Resistance and their families to facilitate their return to their homeland—as free men and women in a true democracy.

The Bush Administration strongly supports the continuation of support to the Resistance, until they can return voluntarily to their homeland into safe and democratic conditions.

Furthermore, we believe that maintenance of the Resistance as a cohesive force provides a unique incentive to the Sandinistas to live up to their pledge to allow free elections.

Since the Bipartisan Accord was signed, there have been two important developments in Nicaragua, both related to the upcoming elections in February.

The first development occurred on August 4 when the Sandinistas met with the democratic opposition parties in Managua and agreed to several measures which the opposition had long sought. The Sandinistas promised the 14 parties of the national opposition union changes in the public security law, temporary suspension of conscription, limited TV time, and few other changes in electoral procedures.

These measures represent a step—but only a step—in the right direction. I will return to the question of the elections in a minute.

The other development to occur took place just three days later, on August 7 of this year, the second anniversary of the Esquipulas II agreement, which the five Central American Presidents met in Tela, Honduras, and signed an additional peace agreement. It contains renewed commitments to democracy and outlines a plan for the voluntary demobilization of armed groups in the region.

As we see it, the Tela Accord essentially reaffirms earlier agreements reached by the Central American Presidents, and is consistent with our own Bipartisan Accord. The underlying principle remains the need to re-establish democratic processes in Nicaragua, thereby permitting voluntary re-integration by the Resistance.

This is not to say that we have suddenly become convinced of the Sandinistas' good intentions. On the contrary, there are significant grounds for suspicion. We must ask ourselves, for example, why the Sandinistas waited until the eve of the Tela Summit to agree to limited concessions to the democratic opposition in Nicaragua.

The answer, I'm afraid, is that they wanted to exploit those concessions in order to obtain agreement on the disbandment of the Contras—and not because they had suddenly become converts to democracy. Indeed, the ink was not dry on the Tela Accord when the Sandinistas proclaimed the death of the Contras and called for this disbandment well before the February election.

Our primary concern, after all, must be for the personal welfare of some 60,000 brave people whom we have supported for the last seven years. The bottom line is that they should not be forced to go back to Nicaragua until it is safe for them to do so and until conditions have been established for their normal reintegration into Nicaraguan society.

I can't tell you how long that process is likely to take, but it is indisputable that safe and democratic conditions do not exist in Nicaragua today, and until they do exist, it will remain a moral obligation of the United States to continue its humanitarian assistance to those people.

The Bipartisan Accord makes clear that the U.S. will not force the Contras back into a Communist Nicaragua to face death and oppression. And the Tela Agreement makes it equally clear that: one, the Contras' return to Nicaragua must be voluntary; two, an international commission must be created to oversee and help implement the establishment of conditions for their safe return; and three, that the ground rules must be established through talks between the Resistance and the Sandinistas.

If the Sandinistas want to comply with the Tela Agreement, let them do what the treaty requires them to do. Let them guarantee Resistance fighters the full "exercise of \* \* \* basic rights and freedoms." Let them open up the prisons of Nicaragua now and let the thousands of political prisoners there go free.

Right now, the Sandinistas are doing none of these things. Human rights groups have documented that the Sandinistas have been conducting a systematic campaign of assassination against Resistance members and supporters. Eighty-nine of them have been murdered or disappeared in the last year and one-half. Is it any wonder why the Resistance fears for its safety if it returns today to Nicaragua?

Now to return to the question of next February's elections. Some have said that we have already written off those elections. My response is to challenge the Sandinistas to move beyond the limited concessions of August 4 to guarantee the integrity of the electoral process.

I challenge the Sandinistas to allow for a non-government TV station; to permit voting by the thousands of Nicaraguans now in exile; to grant immediate and total amnesty for all political prisoners; to lift all restrictions on foreign election observers; to give full opportunity for political rallies and demonstrations without interference from Sandinista-controlled mobs; to allow unfettered public opinion polling up until election day; and to terminate their practice of using government resources for the benefit of the Sandinista party.

From Manila to Panama, the citizens of democratic nations have served as observers when elections have been called by dictatorial regimes. The brave people of Nicaragua need such witnesses for democracy to stand by their side and ensure their rights to organize and campaign throughout the electoral process. I hope members of Congress from both political parties will travel to Nicaragua to stand witness for democracy between now and next February.

Our nation has been deeply divided over what to do about Nicaragua in the face of a Communist government intent on repressing its own people and subverting its neighbors. The Bipartisan Accord unified us in seeking a peaceful, democratic solution—a political solution in Nicaragua. Now, we urge the Sandinistas: Let the people decide. Let the elections be free and fair. Fulfill the promise of the revolution to bring democracy to all Nicaraguans. Reconciliation and peace will follow.

We also look for progress toward peace in El Salvador. Now that all the Presidents of Central America—including Nicaragua—have called at Tela for the FMLN to give up the armed struggle, there is absolutely no excuse for the continuation of the Salvadoran insurgency.

The leaders of the political parties which were allied with the Salvadoran guerrillas—Guillermo Ungo and Ruben Zamora—returned over a year ago to El Salvador to participate in electoral politics. Why do the guerrillas continue their murders of officials of a democratic government?

The way is open for Nicaragua, Cuba, and the Soviet Union, with their longstanding ties to the Salvadoran Communist Party and other leftist factions, to close down the military supply arrangements established at the beginning of this decade and actively work for disbanding the FMLN.

For more than 10 years, the people of Central America have wanted peace and freedom, but too many of them have been subjected to violence and dictatorship. Now, in our time, we have it in our power to help the people of Central America forge a new destiny.

President Bush described that new vision and I would like to repeat what he said: "I see a democratic Central America in which all of the nations of this region live in peace with each other; where the citizens of the region are safe from the violence of the state or from revolutionary guerrillas; where resources now devoted to military defense could be channeled to build hospitals, homes and schools. That is not a dream if all the people and nations of the Americas will it to be true. I hope the Esquipulas Accord and perhaps, also, the Bipartisan Accord, will some day be seen as the first step toward its fulfillment."

I have chosen this forum, and this audience, to reaffirm the Bush Administration's dedication to the cause of freedom in Central America because, perhaps more clearly than any other Americans, you recognize that this is a dangerous world.

You understand that America's peace and freedom have not been easily won; they have been gained at a heavy price. Maintaining that peace and freedom is the first and greatest obligation of any government. And it is an obligation that we in the Bush Administration intend to honor—in Europe, in Asia, in the Middle East, and yes, my friends, in Central America.

Thank you and God bless you.

[Whereupon, the assembly extended a prolonged rising ovation to Vice-President Quayle.]

#### INTRODUCTION OF CAROLYN YOUNG MCCRIMMON—1989 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY WINNER

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, comrades and sisters, very much for your patience and for being such a gracious audience.

It is my very distinct pleasure to introduce the first place winner of the 1989 Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program, and the recipient of the \$16,000 T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship.

Carolyn Young McCrimmon, a recent graduate of Evergreen High School in Evergreen, Colorado, was one of nearly 130,000 students from around the world to enter this year's program.

Sponsored by Post 8991 in Evergreen, Carolyn's achievements include Student Council Representative, Officer of the Key Club, a Presidential Academic Fitness Award, Letters in Cross Country

and Track, Gold Key Art Awards and Editor of the Yearbook. She plans a career in teaching.

Please join me now in welcoming Carolyn Young McCrimmon, the 1989 Voice of Democracy Winner who will present her theme on Preparing for America's Future.

RESPONSE—CAROLYN MCCRIMMON

Ms. CAROLYN MCCRIMMON. Thank you all very much. Ever since I was named the Voice of Democracy State Winner, the Colorado Veterans have been very good about printing my various speeches word-for-word. I hope there are representatives of the Colorado Veterans out there because I want to make sure that at least one part of this speech is printed. That one part is, "Thank you, thank you and thank you."

I know that all of you think highly of the Voice of Democracy Program, but as a participant I got to see it from a different angle. I got to see the individuals who entered the contest. They are bright and energetic, and have many new ideas, and they are able to express them.

You have allowed them to express those ideas and learn about other people's ideas as well. By giving them scholarships, you are helping them get the education they need to become leading citizens, and by sharing your ceremonies and conventions with them, you are showing them how it is to love their country.

The theme this year was "Preparing for America's Future." It is fitting by sponsoring this contest you are preparing for this country's future by preparing its youth. I firmly believe that the kids who entered the Voice of Democracy contest are the ones who will run this country some day and you had a part in shaping them. That is a wonderful thing.

There are many people that I would like to mention. I would like to thank Ray Ammerman, Colorado Voice of Democracy Chairman, for doing a great job and being a good friend to me. Also to Jeff Lawson for a superb week in Washington, D.C., and thanks to Gordon Thorson who has been taking good care of me here in Las Vegas.

Most of all, thank you, the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Ladies Auxiliary for sponsoring the Voice of Democracy Program. I hope some day I can repay you by serving the country which you love so much.

Last night I saw David Copperfield perform at Caesar's Palace. I admit there have been times since I won the Voice of Democracy that I wish I could disappear from the stage as well as he can. I will also admit I am glad you like my speech, because I am myself getting a little bit tired of it. This will be the eleventh time I have given this speech in front of an audience, and hopefully it is the last.

My speech is entitled "Tearing Down Walls."

On July 4, 1987, I touched the Berlin Wall. For three days, I'd been looking at the wall, but was strangely intimidated by it, afraid to go near it. Perhaps it was the signs posted several yards in front of the wall. They proclaimed in German that I was about



to leave the American sector and enter East German territory, which actually extends in front of the wall, into Berlin.

The signs haven't kept many away, though. The Berlin Wall is covered with colorful graffiti; pictures and symbols, and messages in English, French, Italian, Dutch, and German. So many people have left their marks there, defying their fear and the authority of the signs, and leaving an unmistakable message, for because of their graffiti, the East Germans are forced to come over the Wall periodically to paint it. The wall never stays white for long.

I didn't have any spray paint, but I wanted to leave my mark of protest, too. So, on Independence Day, I got up the nerve to cross the East German border and touch the wall. The guards in their tower on the other side of the wall all watched me with their binoculars, and I felt strangely proud to be defying them.

The concrete was chilled and damp, and I jerked my hand away, thinking that I should wash it. The wall seemed more than evil; it was cold, and impersonal, symbolizing all the terrible things that men can do to other men.

There can be no future for a country that must build a twelve-foot wall, complete with barbed wire, guard dogs, and mine fields, to keep its people in. Though the population will always be stable, the country will never consist of anything more than this: a population.

If America were to build a wall around its perimeter, it would have to be three times as high as the Berlin Wall. It would be equipped with helicopters, millions of guards, and miles of mine fields. But this wall would not be built to keep the people in; it would be erected to keep the immigrants out.

That's the great thing about America: It's not just a population, it's people. A people made up of many nationalities, religions, and personalities, a people whose individual rights are guaranteed in the United States Constitution. The future of America is its people.

Unfortunately, we have built walls, restricting individual rights, and separating our people into isolated groups and minorities. I say, though, that if our country is to have a future, we must do away with the discrimination of even labeling people "minorities," and recognize that each individual has potential, no matter what the color of their skin. We must understand that the differences between us don't matter: the similarities do.

We are all in America for a reason. Whether you are the descendant of a Spanish explorer, a Dutch immigrant, a Negro slave, or an American Indian, your family has remained here in America because America is home. This country and all it stands for is important to you. And you can be proud of this country because you have had a say in how it is run. You've voted, and run for office. You've paid your taxes, and fought in wars. The things you buy and sell influence the nation's economy. You cannot help but be a part of it.

Americans must begin to take down the walls that separate them from their peers. Every person is important to our nation; every individual has something to offer. Though we don't have one common ancestry, we have a common future, and that should be enough.

Let's hope we never have to build a wall around our country to keep the people in, or for that matter, keep the people out. We

need the people, the constant flow of new blood, the fresh ideas and enthusiasm, to make our country grow. It takes many individuals to make a people, just as it takes many bricks to make a wall. The future of America is its people, a people much stronger than any wall could ever be.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. We would like to present you with the First Place National Winner 1989 Voice of Democracy Award. Congratulations. Let's have a nice hand for our 1989 Voice of Democracy winner. [Applause.]

INTRODUCTION OF SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE MOC—ROBERT  
CORTRIGHT

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. Now, it is my pleasure to introduce a comrade, who is an Army Veterans of World War II, stationed in Europe. Following the War, he was hired by IBM where he worked for over 40 years—retiring in 1982.

A life member of VFW Post 1449 in Endicott, New York, since 1946, and a Cootie since 1951, he has risen through the chairs and other national positions to the position of Supreme Commander of the Military Order of the Cooties.

I am happy to present Supreme Commander Robert "Hoss" Cortright from the great State of New York.

RESPONSE—SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE MOC—ROBERT CORTRIGHT

Comrade ROBERT CORTRIGHT (Supreme Commander, MOC). Commander-in-Chief Rivers, President Mona Longly, National Officers, Visitors, Comrades and Sisters:

I want to thank you for the opportunity to give this report from the Military Order of the Cootie, the arm of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

On behalf of the 53,000 plus Cooties and their Auxiliary members, I want to wish you the very best for a rewarding Convention. The Cooties and their Auxiliary have made more than 77,000 visits to the hospitals and nursing homes around the country keeping them smiling in beds of white.

The Cooties and their Auxiliary have given 3,386 pints of blood to help veterans in hospitals. The members of the Military Order of the Cootie signed up 3,945 VFW life members and 34,072 new or reinstated VFW members last year.

All the members and officers of the Supreme organization and its Auxiliary pledge their support to the new incoming officers of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for the ensuing year.

Commander, it has been my pleasure working with you for the parent organization, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, this past year. I want to thank everybody for their cooperation.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. I will now call on National Chaplain Reverend John W. Hosmer, for the Benediction.

[Whereupon, National Chaplain Hosmer gave the Closing Prayer, followed by a salute to the colors led by the National Sergeant-at-Arms.]

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. We will now stand in recess.

[Whereupon, the meeting was duly recessed at 11:55 o'clock a.m.]

## DISTINGUISHED GUESTS BANQUET

MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 1989

[The Distinguished Guests Banquet of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, meeting in the Barron Ballroom of the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, was called to order at 7:00 o'clock p.m., by Past Commander-in-Chief Leslie Fry, Chairman, Board of Directors, VFW 90th National Convention.]

Chairman FRY. I will ask that you all stand for the Invocation, and then following the Pledge of Allegiance. So I will call on our National Chaplain to come forward and give us the Invocation.

[Whereupon, the Invocation was given by National Chaplain Hosmer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.]

Chairman FRY. I am Les Fry, Chairman of the Board of Directors of this Convention. I want to extend to each of you a sincere welcome to the National Convention and to Las Vegas, Nevada.

I know that you appreciate that Las Vegas is a fun town and it is an entertainment center of the world, and I hope that you enjoy your stay here. I am not going to talk to you further as we will be entertained by the Las Vegas Hilton Orchestra who will give us some dinner music. Enjoy your meal.

[Whereupon, music and a delicious dinner was enjoyed by those present.]

### INTRODUCTION OF MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Chairman FRY. Let's all join in giving the orchestra a big hand. [Applause.]

It is my pleasure to introduce your Master of Ceremonies for this evening. A native and resident of the great State of Wisconsin—a veteran of the Korean War where he served with the United States Army's 7th Infantry Division as a Squad Leader and was wounded in action.

He has served our organization for 39 years in many Post, District, Department and National capacities. In 1974-'75, he was an All-American Department Commander in Wisconsin. Active in a variety of youth activities over the years, he retired from the Rexnord Corporation after 32 years of employment. This past year he has served the VFW as a highly energetic and exceptional capable Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

It is my honor to present your Master of Ceremonies, Walter "Wally" Hogan, the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief from the great Badger State of Wisconsin.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. Thank you, Les. I would just like to say welcome, everybody, to the Annual Distinguished Guests Banquet. I would be remiss if I didn't thank our Commander-in-Chief Larry for the high honor he has afforded me

in being the Master of Ceremonies for this Distinguished Guests Banquet. It is now my honor to introduce our head table guests.

[Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Hogan introduced the Distinguished Guests at this time.]

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. I am honored to present the man who gave us the theme "We Remember" and under his leadership we certainly did remember. We did remember America and we did remember her veterans. Ladies and gentlemen, the National Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I am proud to present Larry W. Rivers from the great State of Louisiana.

[Whereupon, the assembly extended a prolonged rising ovation to Commander-in-Chief Rivers.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you very much. Thank you, Wally, for that most generous and warm introduction. We have more than business to conduct here tonight, so my remarks will by necessity be very brief.

I did want to take just a minute to tell you that I stand before you tonight as proud as any VFW member could be and proud as any Commander-in-Chief could ever be. You have accorded me the high honor of allowing me to serve this organization and indeed to be your leader over these past 12 months.

That experience has been a rewarding one and indeed a most difficult one at times. I want you to know that I will forever remember this year and forever cherish that memory. I have had the opportunity to see the work that you do, to see it firsthand in countries other than our own, in countries throughout this great land.

I am proud to report to you tonight that the two million members of the VFW and nearly 800,000 members of our Ladies Auxiliary continue to serve America, continue to do what we can to be the kind of citizens we ought to be and continue to remember those that have served this country so well and so good, the veterans.

Because of your hard work and because of your dedication and because of what you do, we have had 34 years of continuous membership growth. This continued membership growth is important, because it allows us to move into the '90s and propels us into the next century as the foremost veterans' advocate in this country.

As this past year unfolded, we had many important missions to accomplish and many things to do. We welcomed our first Secretary of Veterans Affairs. We welcomed cabinet level status. We worked on the Supplementing Funding Act that we needed so badly for the health care of American veterans.

I am convinced because of your outcry and because of your seriousness, and because of your concern for the health and welfare of America's veterans, and because of the fact that you were willing to point out the political pandering that was going on with that legislation in the Congress, it was finally passed. We were able to get the funding so desperately needed.

I am proud of many things. I am proud of your strong support for our national defense, second to none. I am extremely proud of the fact we have lived up to our theme, "We Remember" by truly remembering those still held as prisoners of war and those still missing in action.



I am proud of you for speaking out on many issues. I am proud of you for standing up and letting America know that we understand there are drug lords and dictators in Central America that have not only ruined their own countries but our own as well and, indeed, the world.

You have spoken out forcefully to ensure that we are not intimidated by such people. I am especially proud of the way you stood tall when we faced the difficult issue of the flag burning as a form of political protest.

I am convinced that as we move into our new VFW here we will be even more forceful and we will see an amendment that will prevent that type of desecration. My friends and fellow veterans, in a nutshell, I am proud of the fact that you have continued to be out front and that you have continued to lead the way.

Before I end my term as your Commander-in-Chief and before I end my personal mission as your Chief, I wanted to take these few minutes to tell you on behalf of Connie and myself that we have been privileged to lead you. We thank you for your hard work, your support and your enthusiasm, and we thank you for truly remembering and to let you know that I am convinced that those who sit in this room tonight are indeed the heartbeat of America. You did remember. God bless you and God bless America.

#### PRESENTATION OF VFW HALL OF FAME AWARD

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. What a great night this is. We have had three great days in Las Vegas, and I know that many of us have been looking forward to the Distinguished Guests Banquet tonight.

At this time, it is a great pleasure for me to present the VFW Hall of Fame Award to a man who for more than 35 years, as an entertainer, has brought pleasure and joy to the American public. A gentle and personable man, he possesses that uncanny ability to mesmerize, charm and relate to his audience.

We are here tonight to recognize not only an extraordinary entertainer, but a man who has given of himself unselfishly by sharing his time and talents with the men and women of our armed forces serving overseas.

Through the difficult years of the Vietnam War and following the tragic bombing of the marine barracks in Beirut in 1983, to the hostile years of the Persian Gulf, Wayne Newton has traveled to these hot spots to entertain our service personnel assuring them of America's care, concern and support.

Wayne Newton has been recognized by the Department of Defense, the USO and President of the United States for his distinguished service in enhancing the morale, welfare and well-being of the men and women in uniform serving overseas.

It is my honor to present this award to a man who is a friend of the VFW, a friend of our service personnel and a man who gives added meaning to the words, entertainer, citizen and American.

Ladies and gentlemen, an asset to this country and a true friend to the American veterans, Mr. Wayne Newton.

[Whereupon, the assembly extended a prolonged rising ovation to recipient Wayne Newton.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. If you will allow me to read the Citation.

VFW Hall of Fame Award presented to Wayne Newton, in recognition of your outstanding contributions to the citizens of this nation as an entertainer, actor and distinguished recording artist; and for your support of humanitarian programs and entertaining American armed forces personnel in this country and overseas.

This has been appropriately signed by myself as the Commander-in-Chief, and attested to by the Adjutant General. Wayne, we are pleased to have you and thanks for who you are and all you do.

#### RESPONSE—WAYNE NEWTON

Mr. WAYNE NEWTON. The Commander hasn't given me the plaque yet. How is that? I have been warned, and most people are aware of my penchant to do long shows, to please keep my remarks at this time short.

Needless to say, words are painfully inadequate. I feel a little bit like Elizabeth Taylor's next husband must feel like on his wedding night. You know what to do, but you just don't know how to make it interesting.

Commander, Admiral, Ladies and Gentlemen of the dais, all of you out there:

When I said words are painfully inadequate, I can tell you in my times in Vietnam, in the mid-'60s and in Lebanon, and then off the shores of Iran a couple of years ago, all I ever wanted was simply to take something that I perceived to be a God-given talent and do something with it that I hoped would bring some happiness to people that were paying the big debt for freedom, honor and dignity. The looks on their faces certainly sufficed that need in my heart.

Tonight, receiving this magnificent award is beyond words. It is certainly a dream come true. It is even beyond that, because it is something that I never even contemplated, the fact that somebody would care other than those people that we had the pleasure of performing for.

What I have done pales in comparison to what all of you have given. Be that as it may, I want you to know that what I have given was the best in me and the part in which I am the most proud. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

[Whereupon, the assembly extended a prolonged rising ovation to Wayne Newton.]

#### PRESENTATION OF VFW DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you very much. Tonight, I have a second great privilege and honor, and that is the opportunity to present the highest award our organization can confer upon a fellow citizen.

Tonight, it is a great honor to present the Dwight David Eisenhower Award to Admiral William J. Crowe, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Admiral Crowe, in addition to being the highest ranking officer of our armed forces, is often referred to as the epitome of the sailor, scholar and statesman. After graduating from the United

State Naval Academy in 1946, he served aboard the U.S.S. *Carmick*, then qualified as a submariner with service in the U.S.S. *Flying Fish*, U.S.S. *Clamagore*, U.S.S. *Wahoo* and as Commander of the U.S.S. *Trout*.

He has also served as Commander of Submarine Division 31, as the Senior United States Naval Advisor to the Vietnamese Riverine Force, as Commander of the Middle East Naval Force in the Persian Gulf, as Commander-in-Chief of Allied Forces, Southern Europe, and Commander-in-Chief of the United States Pacific Command.

As a scholar, Admiral Crowe attended the University of Oklahoma before entering the Naval Academy. After graduation from Annapolis, he earned a Master's degree from Stanford University and a Ph.D. in Politics from Princeton University.

Admiral Crowe's background has also made him a Senior Statesman. He has served in the Department of Interior as Director of the Office for Micronesian States Negotiations and later in the Pentagon as the Director of East Asian and Pacific Affairs for the Department of the Navy, and in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Most recently, Admiral Crowe led a delegation of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on a ten-day visit to the Soviet Union.

Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to present the Dwight David Eisenhower Award to one of our most distinguished military officers, Admiral William J. Crowe.

[Whereupon, the assembly extended a prolonged rising ovation to Admiral William J. Crowe, Recipient of the VFW Dwight D. Eisenhower Distinguished Service Award.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. I will read to you the Citation. It reads as follows:

Dwight David Eisenhower Distinguished Service Medal and this Citation presented to Admiral William J. Crowe, Jr., Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, in grateful recognition of your distinguished service as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and for your continuing contributions to the cause of national security, unity, and world peace; and for providing outstanding leadership to our armed forces; thus earning the admiration and appreciation of the citizens of this nation.

It has been signed by myself as the Commander-in-Chief and attested to by the Adjutant General. Congratulations, Admiral Crowe. You are among friends.

#### RESPONSE AND PRINCIPAL ADDRESS—ADMIRAL WILLIAM J. CROWE

Admiral CROWE. Good evening. I don't see as many photographers out there as were up here for Wayne Newton. I was told when you get my age and you get your picture taken, you want mercy and not justice. Unfortunately, that is true.

It is a great pleasure and privilege for me to be in Las Vegas tonight, although I have to confess to you I am somewhat intimidated by such a large audience and so many people that are having so much fun as I understand that you are in this great city.

I hope that I can avoid what happened to Rodney Dangerfield in one of his appearances in Las Vegas. His routine had not gone so good so in desperation he decided to let the audience ask questions from the floor. The first guy got up and asked, "What do you do for a living?" You have to think about that a little while.

I would like to say at the outset, though, what a pleasure it is to appear on the same platform with Wayne Newton, a great entertainer, a very famous entertainer, although I have some loans older than he is. We probably are putting on a good act here, Wayne. I will put them to sleep and you keep them awake.

I would like to add my compliments, though, on behalf of the United States Military and as a Senior Officer for all that you have done to increase the morale and to show the appreciation of the American people to our active duty personnel as you have toured the war zones and you have done so much for them.

I assure you that it is a relief to shed the rush of Washington. It is also nice to get outside of the Beltway. That last four years I think I have begun to appreciate more the wisdom of Harry Truman's famous observation. "If you want a loyal friend in Washington, you better go buy a dog." My wife and I are not taking any chances. We own two dogs.

I work in the Pentagon. That is the building with five sides on every issue. I am afraid in the Joint Chiefs of Staff, we see all five sides. I am also a great admirer of the television program "Cheers." I noticed the other night that Norm said something that sort of characterizes my own life in Washington.

Someone asked him, "How is the day going, Norm?" He said, "Well, it is a dog-eat-dog world out there, and I am wearing my bone underwear." That would be a lot funnier if I was kidding. Many of you probably know that the people in the Nation's Capitol can at times be sort of up-tight and self-important.

Earlier this year I received an invitation to appear at the TV sitcom "Cheers," which I eagerly accepted. I thought it would be wonderful for my image, at least with the younger people, not to mention my morale.

When I returned to Washington and someone took me aside and said, "It might not have been right for an active duty officer to appear in a comedy show in uniform," I replied, "You are not very familiar with the Pentagon, are you?" I am afraid I do it every day there.

If I could put some of the frivolity aside, I am extremely pleased to be with you this evening and I consider myself privileged to receive the VFW's Distinguished Service Award. This organization is composed of many men and women who know a great deal about service and sincerely believe in keeping our Republic strong.

I am well aware of the active support you extend to military people in every branch and of every rank. So recognition from you is meaningful, indeed. I am genuinely moved by the honor you do me.

It is also gratifying, albeit humbling, to receive an award commemorating Dwight D. Eisenhower's contributions to the interests of national security and peace.

In preparation for these remarks, I looked through once again his autobiography. I was struck by some of the thoughts that he had expressed as he was on the verge of retirement, because I am facing a similar ordeal in just a few weeks.

One of his observations was especially pertinent to this evening's proceedings. He was reflecting on the great Civil War Battle at



Gettysburg, the actual location of his retirement home. He wrote the following words about Gettysburg.

"Everything depends on the initiative, the fidelity, the strength of many thousands of individuals, known only to their immediate comrades in the battle, their names forgotten today."

As I stand here this evening, singled out for your Eisenhower Award, I am reminded of those words and of the men and women in uniform with whom I have been privileged to work for almost five decades and whom I am proud to represent tonight.

I have often said, and I believe it sincerely, that the greatest reward of a career in the armed forces is the chance to associate and work with a continuing stream of young Americans from all walks of life, brought together by a desire to serve their country.

I am pleased to report to you that today's young people, volunteers all, are the brightest, most educated, best trained I have seen in uniform.

I have watched them, day in and day out, in stress and in boredom, in peace and in war, in good times and in bad. I have even seen them unflinchingly give more than is needed to meet every test, often far more from home and without the amenities other professions might have brought them.

Tonight, they are manning distant battlements, patrolling Freedom's Frontiers, and standing between us and those who would seek to harm our society or to bring it down. There is no nobler calling and there are no better people. No matter what you might read to the contrary, I know from personal experience with many, many young people that the future of our country is in good hands. [Applause.]

The award that you have given to me this evening sends an important signal of affirmation to them, and I might also add to those at home who benefit daily from their service. It is a signal worth amplifying far beyond the confines of this room; our servicemen and women richly deserve it.

The VFW has always taken the lead in the endeavor, and I am glad to have this opportunity to thank you for your enthusiastic support of all our servicemen and women. I know that Ike would agree.

As I contemplate my own retirement, which I have been doing quite a bit for some time lately, someone told me just this week that as my retirement drew more close I would have increasingly vivid memories of things that never happened at all. I think I am already undergoing that phenomena.

But I have spent some time thinking about the role of the military and the picture that I see from where the Chairman sits. My time is limited this evening, but I thought I might share with you just one or two of those thoughts.

I have already mentioned the quality of our people and their education. You enjoy a premier military organization, perhaps the finest in the world in terms of equipment, training, readiness and, of course, people. But this is not all. In fact, it is not the important part or the most important part of the defense equation.

The real question is what do we get for it? Let me assure you that you derive a large return on your security investment, not only in war but every day of the year. Let me elaborate.

The most obvious example, of course, is our military contribution to NATO, the world's most successful coalition. Above all, this investment has brought us the longest period of uninterrupted peace in European history.

Our armed forces have likewise played a crucial role in buttressing the political unity of the coalition, in cementing Washington's leadership role in the free world and signaling to all that we are willing to invest our manpower and treasury in support of our ideals.

A similar phenomenon has transpired in the Far East, although in a different format. For over 40 years, our forward deployed forces in the Western Pacific, in Japan, and on the Korean Peninsula have provided a security shield for our Asian allies and friends.

Our strength has deterred outside intimidation and allowed the free market countries in the region to advance in their own fashion and at their own pace. The result has been unprecedented affluence, the steady spread of democracy and political stability.

When I was Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific, this theme was repeated to me constantly, again and again, by leaders in the area who emphasized that their progress and success would have been impossible without American forces standing guard. They, in turn, urged me to make sure that we remain strong and forward deploy in East Asia.

In the last few years, we have seen additional examples on a smaller scale of how the military can be used to further foreign policy ends. Grenada, Libya, Honduras, El Salvador, the Persian Gulf and the Middle East today demonstrate that all units can often contribute in a measured and positive manner when the circumstances call for such a contribution.

They also suggested that we are becoming more adept in coordinating national diplomatic and security policies.

In a similar vein, our services have turned their attention to a number of new missions which have climbed on to the national agenda—terrorism, limited intensity conflict and, of course, drug interdiction.

Every day we are becoming better postured to give the President a wider choice of tools in meeting these emergency threats.

However, the recent events in Soviet Russia are the most persuasive argument for our policy of peace through strength. For several decades we were threatened, vilified and bulleted by an aggressive Kremlin that continuously proclaimed the demise of capitalism and proceeded to build the world's most formidable military establishment.

Today we are seeing hopeful signs of a basic reappraisal in Moscow and the first turns toward a less offensive stance. While this reversal has been brought about by a range of factors, including the failure of the Communist system to live up to Marx and Lenin's economic promises, I am persuaded that a majority contributor was the West's determination not to succumb to intimidation and to erect its own global defense.

This policy was expensive for our taxpayers. It was also painful for our allies. The payoff in defense has been extremely high. Our world is still free and prospering, millions of people are turning to

the West for hope, the pluralism not Communism is the wave of the future. In the face of such evidence, no one can convince me our security investment has been misplaced.

Yet after a few years of increasing defense appropriations in the early '80s, we are seeing the pendulum swing again. Since 1985, congressional appropriations have been steadily declining, some 12 percent actually, and I am now told that this is just the beginning. I hear talk in the National Legislation literature of massive cuts for the next five years. I cannot help but be severely disturbed by such a prospect.

Four times in the last century we have entered major wars unprepared because we were under-funded in peacetime, and in each instance paid a terrible price in casualties, a price incidentally that could have been avoided with more thought and with more wisdom.

I once heard a WAG say, "In war we remember the Alamo, the Maine, Pearl Harbor. In peace we forget." Will we never learn. It is curious that just as our security policies are beginning to bear fruit in Moscow, we commence whittling at them with a vengeance.

I am not opposed to defense draw-downs if the threat and international conditions justify it, but I do not see a national debate about the threat, foreign policy or the future of regional instabilities. I see no in-depth discussion of Central and Latin America or Cambodia, Syria, Lebanon, Southwest Africa or Iran, all of which are currently wrecked by problems that if they escalate could involve the U.S. military.

To the contrary, when I testify on the Hill I am told that I don't appreciate the "political realities." These realities are never defined. I suspect they are talking about emotionalism. I would prefer to see some clear analysis behind our decisions.

Do we want to reduce our commitments overseas? Do we want to change our strategy? I would argue vigorously it would be preferable to decide where we are going and why before we arbitrarily slash the defense budget irreversibly. To a man that is retiring after over 45 years of service, that doesn't seem too much to ask.

This brings me to my second subject, our relationship with the Soviet Union. I am told that recent events in the USSR are what led many to conclude that the need for strong defenses is disappearing. In my view, we need to look carefully and thoughtfully at this proposition.

Certainly, in my time as Chairman, nothing has been more remarkable than the emergency of General Secretary Gorbachev with his dramatic policy changes in the USSR.

When I took my present post, I had no idea that the political climate would ultimately permit my Soviet counterparts and I to open up a direct dialogue, or to inaugurate a program of contacts between our armed forces, nor did I ever expect to see a retired Soviet Marshal testifying before the Armed Services Committee.

I noticed that Newsweek magazine characterized our relationship as the "Odd Couple." I had a lot of trouble translating that for him. He said he thought we were just a regular couple. I told him I was glad to see him testify before the Congress and he would have some idea of the ordeals I have to go through annually. I thought he should share the misery with me.

Yet all these unexpected events have occurred just in the last two years. Hopefully, the momentum will continue. To say the least, these have been interesting times as we have tried to understand what Gorbachev's intentions and prospects are and what his efforts might mean for the future, especially in the military realm.

It is a tantalizing business that has required us to review and reassess our traditional ways at looking at the Russians and to keep our cool in the face of unexpected developments.

Indeed, for the full span of my professional lifetime, the global reach of Soviet military power has been the main concern of defense planners in the United States and among Washington's allies in Europe and Asia, and with good reason.

I don't need to rehash that history here. You are well aware of it. Suffice it to say that today the basic characteristics of Soviet power are still impressive by any measure. The Kremlin has the largest military establishment in the world, the formidable legacy of a strategy designed to defeat every possible opposing coalition, and of a long-time cultural belief in numerical superiority in both peace and war.

On the other hand, it has been clear for some time that the underlying political, economic and social pillars of Soviet society are not in good shape, and that the Kremlin's postwar security policies have imposed enormous costs on the Russian people and greatly burdened their future prospects.

Gorbachev has outlined those woes in detail in his writings and public utterances. In turn, he has launched "perestroika," "glasnost" and "democratization" in the hope of reshaping his country for the next century.

A number of international trends have been unfavorable to the Kremlin. Probably foremost is the evident success of the free enterprise system, and its vibrancy in the most developed free countries. In essence, events over the last 40 years have refuted the Kremlin's catechism which confidently predicted capitalism's demise.

As I indicated earlier, the United States responded to the build-up of the Soviet Union, not with weakness but with determination and a marked resurgence of strength across the board in its armed forces.

Equally important, the United States alliances have proved remarkable resilient and adaptable to changing conditions in stark contrast to Moscow's partners who neither carry the load that American allies do nor are as reliable.

Looking out on that array of problems, Gorbachev and his supporters still hold that defense must be the first priority of the state. But they now claim to be reshaping the Kremlin's past approaches.

Gorbachev has stated the Soviet Union is adopting a military posture of reasonable sufficiency. We saw the first substantive manifestations of that decision in some recent force reductions, doctrinal shifts and restructuring plans, which he announced in December.

If these and other announced moves are carried out, and that is a big "if", they will in the aggregate be significant and we must recognize that. At the same time, the Soviets themselves are quick to assert that it is painful for them to do this.



Additionally, over the past few years Gorbachev has joined with Washington in serious arms reduction talks, and we have made some real progress. The issues ahead of us are thorny. It is impossible to say what will result, but Washington remains committed to the process and there is no question that Gorbachev sees these negotiations as a way to lighten the defense load on his struggling economy and his population.

All of this is, of course, as encouraging as it was expected just a few years ago. But in my view certain fundamental realities counsel caution in interpreting these trends.

First is the fact that even if reduced as announced, the USSR military establishment will still number more than four million men under arms. Moscow will retain the world's largest single-country inventory of military hardware. As I told the Soviets repeatedly during my trip in June, it is very hard for outside observers to understand how that massive apparatus can be justified by legitimate defense needs.

Moreover, other elements of Soviet military power remain untouched by the reductions announced thus far, including military activities in space, strategic offensive and defensive forces, air defense units, naval combatants and strategic mobility assets.

A further cautionary note springs from the immensity and risk of the task the Soviets have undertaken with their program of reforms. It appears that Gorbachev and his supporters are sincerely committed to some fundamental reform. But wanting and accomplishing change are two different things.

I believe the Soviets originally underestimated the difficulties associated with perestroika and the time it will take to develop solutions. For such an ambitious enterprise, it is not possible to draw a detailed road map at the outset. Therefore, they are all sailing in uncharted waters. There is an awful lot of playing it by ear, a day at a time.

This applies to the military as well. With time, problems like absorbing released military personnel into the civilian sector and converting defense industry to production of consumer goods may become more, not less demanding.

In this situation, to say they are doing fine today doesn't tell you much about tomorrow or whether these policies can, in fact, be successfully implemented.

We can say much the same for glasnost. Thus far the leadership has just put its toe in the water in encouraging openness. If real pluralism is ultimately achieved, it will require a massive shift in attitudes throughout the society, requiring every group to exercise extraordinary tolerance of others. It is certainly not clear at this juncture how this will play out or, frankly, whether it can be done at all in the USSR.

Moreover, the ethnic problems that plague the Kremlin are especially thorny and could threaten the entire enterprise. Similarly, the Warsaw Pact countries are severely testing Mr. Gorbachev as this morning's headlines on Poland makes clear.

Further, at present we have a host of serious bilateral issues to be sorted out in strategic and conventional arms reduction talks before we can move forward. There will have to be intense negotia-

tions, and the final outcome is by no means predictable or certain at that point.

All of this does not make me feel especially comfortable. I am persuaded that we are not in a new era as yet. We are perhaps entering a period of uneasy transition which will hopefully lead to favorable changes in the super power relationship.

But put simply, there are still too many uncertainties on the horizon. My assessment is that it is too early to predict a successful outcome and that we may be in this unsettled state for a long time. My deepest concern, my personal concern, is that our own impatience is tempting us to move prematurely with broad lines of hope and faith based on rhetoric before we have tangible evidence of where the Soviets are going and what their timetable will be.

It is curious to me that many Americans profess to know where the Soviets are going and the Soviets don't even know themselves. In my mind, it would be a great deal more rational to move gradually and deliberately taking reasonable steps as the horizon becomes clear, not before. This applies particularly to our own security policies. In my view, to draw down our strength prematurely and on the basis solely of rhetoric would be folly.

Finally, a brief word on keeping these events in proportion. As I prepare to leave the chairmanship, I am convinced that the events of the last several years have appreciably advanced mutual understanding and confidence between the United States and the Soviet military establishment.

The climate for frank discussions of differences and constructive work has markedly improved. I hope it will continue to get better as we meet more often. If we are skillful and patient, the remarkable changes we are witnessing today may grow and at some point in the future offer opportunities, better opportunities for a safer and more stable world.

But such a climate is not here yet. There is a lot of hard work and trauma ahead before we can bring such an outcome about. Moreover, it is imperative to every American to understand that the international community will always have difficulties and differences to manage.

Further, many of the problems in the Soviet Union, and for that matter the world's dangers, present and future, cannot be ameliorated simply by improvements in the super power relationship. As far as the United States-Soviet relationship, our system will remain fundamentally competitive. We must understand and recognize that.

If even all the trends we think we can discern in Moscow play in our favor, the business of protecting the interests of Americans in an uncertain world won't be done. We will still need strong armed forces to undergird our international dealings, and to buttress friends and allies around the globe.

The character and shape of our military strength may well change, but the enduring imperatives of international life will always demand that we retain an adequate level of power. WE are seeing that fact of life assert itself today and it will continue to plague us for the foreseeable future.

Maintaining an appropriate and adequate posture won't be easy. It will take patience, determination and a clear-sighted policy mix

that exploits all opportunities for peace without sacrificing the strength that brings the opportunities within reach.

But fundamentally, I am an optimist about our ability to walk that line. We have done it a long time and we do it well. I suspect that makes me probably an incorrigible optimist. A quote from Paul Harvey comes to mind. "Times like this is always helpful to remember always in times like these."

I am well aware of the significant role the VFW plays in our continued defense dialogue. Our nation profits from your patriotism, your experience and your knowledge, and on behalf of the armed forces of the United States I salute you and I thank you for your consistent support of our efforts, and I urge you to remain engaged. We need you. Thank you.

[Whereupon, the assembly extended a prolonged rising ovation to Admiral Crowe.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Admiral Crowe, thank you very much. To both you and our special guest, Wayne Newton, we thank you for taking time from your busy schedules to be here.

I would ask our Master of Ceremonies and Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Wally Hogan to return to the station to conclude the banquet.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. Thank you, Larry. At this time I would like to thank each and every one of you for sharing with us this evening and, of course, for your kind attention.

At this time I would like to call on the National Chaplain, Reverend John Hosmer, for the purpose of the Benediction.

[Whereupon, National Chaplain Hosmer gave the Benediction.]

## FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

TUESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 22, 1989

[The First Business Session of the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was called to order in the Barron Room, Hilton Center, Las Vegas Hilton Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, at 9:00 o'clock a.m., by Commander-in-Chief Rivers.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The First Business Session of the 90th Convention is now called to order.

Comrade Sergeant-at-Arms, will you prepare the room to salute the colors.

[National Sergeant-at-Arms George Sarver led the Convention in the Salute to the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance, following which National Chaplain Hosmer gave the Opening Prayer.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Welcome, Comrades, and thanks to all of you for attending the First Business Session. I think we have a very interesting and exciting program this morning.

At this time I would like to call to this station Warren H. Hutchings, Manager of Veterans Affairs for the Adolph Coors Company. Mr. Hutchings.

### PRESENTATION—ADOLPH COORS COMPANY

Mr. WARREN HUTCHINGS. National Commander Larry Rivers, National Officers, Fellow Delegates:

I want to thank the VFW for inviting me here this year. On behalf of the Adolph Coors Company, I want to present our National Commander with a duplicate of his dog tags. This will bring back a few years, Larry.

"A salute to Larry W. Rivers, National Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars, from the employees of the Adolph Coors Brewing Company, Golden, Colorado, August 18-25, 1989."

I will read the dog tags. "Rivers, Larry W., 433-75-8068-PA; Captain; Protestant" and, of course, the Gold Dog Tag Award. Larry, congratulations.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you very much, Warren. Also thank you from all of us for all that the Adolph Coors Company does not only for the VFW but continues its support for the veterans of America.

I would like to call on the Chairman of the Credentials Committee, Richard Trombla, for his report from the Credentials Committee.

### REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Comrade RICHARD TROMBLA (Post 1174—Kansas). Commander-in-Chief and Comrades, I am Richard Trombla, Post 1174, Department



of Kansas, Chairman of the Credentials Committee. This is a temporary report as of the close of business last night.

Delegate voting strength, 16,712; Department Commanders 50; National Officers 35; Past Commanders-in-Chief 23; for a total, as of last night, of 16,820. Commander-in-Chief, this is a temporary report.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to tell you this is the largest registration that we have had in at least the past eight or nine years. It looks as if we are going to have the largest registration that we have ever had.

At this time I call for the report of the Chairman of the Committee on Convention Rules, Past Commander-in-Chief Clyde Lewis.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CONVENTION RULES

Past Commander-in-Chief CLYDE LEWIS. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, Delegates to the 90th National Convention, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, your Committee on Convention Rules met Monday afternoon, August 21, and agreed unanimously on the following recommendations which are respectfully submitted for your consideration:

1. That, with exceptions noted below, Demeter's Manual be recognized as parliamentary authority for this Convention.

2. That when a delegate desires to make a motion or address the Convention, he shall rise, address the Chair as "Comrade Commander-in-Chief," and after being recognized, shall state his name, Post number and Department, before proceeding.

3. Debate shall be limited to ten minutes for each speaker.

4. A delegate shall be permitted to speak but twice on any one subject, or any pending resolution, except by consent of two-thirds of the voting strength of the Convention present; provided, that chairmen of Convention committees may speak as frequently as necessary in connection with reports of their committees; and in the event of controversy, the presiding officer shall not entertain any motion which will curtail further debate without affording the maker of the motion or a member of the particular group presenting the resolution an opportunity for final rebuttal.

5. All resolutions offered by individual delegates must bear the endorsement of the Department Commander or Department Adjutant and must be submitted to the office of the Adjutant General for numbering and referral to committees.

6. All resolutions offered on the floor at the Convention, or otherwise, shall be in writing and shall automatically and without reading, be referred to the Adjutant General for assignment to the proper committee.

7. Committee chairmen, in reporting on resolutions referred to their committee, shall first read those resolutions on which favorable action is recommended. Specific resolutions shall be set aside for individual action at the request of any delegate, the others being voted upon collectively. After action has been taken on all such resolutions, the chairman shall read the number and title of those resolutions which the committee has disapproved. A resolution disapproved by the committee shall be automatically rejected unless a motion is made and seconded that it be approved, in which case it shall be brought up for debate and Convention action.

8. This Convention will not consider any resolution dealing with race, creed or religion, or endorse anyone for public office.

9. This Convention will not consider any resolution endorsing legislation sponsored by any other veterans organizations, or requesting us to join with any other organization in sponsoring legislation not expressly proposed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

10. No person not a duly accredited delegate or member of the National Convention shall participate in debate, directly or indirectly, in a viva voce vote on any subject before the Convention.

11. Unit rule of voting shall not be allowed in this Convention.

12. On roll calls, the Chairman or acting Chairman of each delegation shall poll his delegation on the floor and shall announce the vote of his delegation.

13. Delegations may arrive at a vote in any manner they see fit, but shall announce it in terms of full units and not in terms of a fractional part of a vote.

14. When the report of the chairman of the delegation is not acceptable to all members of the delegation and a poll of the Department delegates is demanded by ten delegates of said Department, the Adjutant General shall poll the delegates, without discussion of question.

15. Voting shall be by acclamation, except when a roll call is demanded by ten delegates representing Posts in ten separate Departments.

16. Nominating speeches for the National Officers shall be limited to five minutes each. Not more than two seconding speeches shall be made for any candidate and such speeches shall not exceed two minutes each. Nomination and election of National Officers will be held according to the National Constitution and By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, Article VI, Section 609.

17. Delegates and persons recognized by the Chair shall be entitled to a respectful hearing and the Chair shall have the authority to clear the gallery or the floor or have the Sergeant-at-Arms escort from the floor any person or persons who may create any disturbances which interfere with the orderly procedure of the Convention.

18. Consent of two-thirds of the voting strength of the Convention present is necessary for suspension of the rules of this Convention.

This report is signed by Clyde A. Lewis, Chairman, and Joseph A. Scerra, Vice-Chairman.

Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I move the adoption of the report of the Committee on Convention Rules.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion on the floor that we adopt the report of the Committee on Rules. Is there a second to that motion?

Comrade ART MORIN (Post 2692—New Jersey). Comrade Commander-in-Chief, Art Morin, Post 2692, New Jersey, seconds the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a second. Is there any discussion on the motion? Hearing no discussion, all in favor of adopting the report of the Convention Rules Committee will please say "aye"; those opposed say "no". The "ayes" have it and the committee report is accepted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

#### INTRODUCTION—CONGRESSWOMAN BARBARA VUCANOVICH—U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, NEVADA

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. We are indeed pleased to have with us Congresswoman Barbara Vucanovich. Congresswoman Vucanovich was born at Camp Dix, New Jersey, and spent her childhood stationed with her family at various Army Posts, including Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and West Point, New York.

Barbara has been a resident of Nevada for almost 40 years, and has been active in Reno community service projects for many years, serving as President of St. Mary's Hospital Guild and President of the Lawyers Wives Association.

She has headed up United Fund drives, as well as fund raising efforts for the American Cancer Society, the Red Cross and the Nevada Heart Fund. In 1982, she won the newly-created Second District seat in the House of Representatives and became the first woman to represent Nevada in Congress. She was re-elected to Congress for a fourth term in November, 1988.

In the House of Representatives, she serves on the Committee on the Interior and Insular Affairs, the Subcommittees on Energy and the Environment, Mining and National Resources, and is the Ranking Republican on the Subcommittee on General Oversight and Investigations.

She also serves on the Committee on House Administration and is the Ranking Republican on the Subcommittee on Accounts. She is a member of the Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families.

Barbara is married to George Vucanovich, a native of Tonopah, Nevada. She has raised five children, and is the proud grandmother of 16 grandchildren and one new great-grandson.

It is now a very special privilege for me to present to you Congresswoman for the State of Nevada, Barbara Vucanovich.

ADDRESS BY THE HONORABLE BARBARA VUCANOVICH—U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SECOND DISTRICT, NEVADA

Congresswoman VUCANOVICH. Thank you, Larry. I appreciate it. You know, I am not a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, but I feel like one today since I am walking around with a broken arm. I didn't do it on the battlefield, although I did do it on the golf course. When I play, it is like a battlefield.

As Larry told you, I am an Army brat. I was born in Camp Dix, New Jersey. In those days, it was Camp Dix. I know it isn't any more. But that is what it was when I was born there. My dad was an engineer officer. His first assignment, when he finished college, was working on building the Panama Canal.

He served in France during World War I, and during World War II he was in the Reserve and he was called back to go to the CBI Theater and was called from there to be General Yost's Deputy on the Manhattan Project. He led the people who came off Kenyan.

Earl Tibbets directed this operation where they went into Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I have two brothers that were West Point graduates. One gave his life at NCO, and the other one has served with distinction and is now retired, did work for Troy, and some of you probably know what Troy is, and then he decided he had not had a long enough career, so he went to law school and he is now practicing law in Virginia.

One of my sons served two tours in Vietnam with the Green Berets. One of my sons-in-law, a doctor, served there; another brother served there; a brother-in-law served there. So, I feel that I am sort of a soul-maker with you although not a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

I am glad to be here today. I hope you are enjoying our state. I think this is very special. We are very happy that you are here in Nevada. I don't think there is any one group that means more to me than American veterans. You know, we talk about patriotism, we talk about courage and sacrifice and loyalty.

All of these are ideals which have galvanized this country and given us our free and democratic system. Since the dark days of Valley Forge and throughout our history, these ideals are the forces behind keeping us great.

I think that it is very unfortunate a true understanding of these ideals seem to be born only in adversity. You know, we have given a generation of Americans 45 years of peace, and we have you to thank for that.

Almost 20 years have elapsed since Vietnam, and a whole generation has grown up with an all-volunteer Army, and a peacetime

society. More and more, I see some of these fundamental values poorly understood and even forgotten by a generation who is used to taking democracy for granted.

Many of you here still remember lost friends, relatives and comrades-in-arms, who gave their lives as a sacrifice to the freedom we enjoy in this country today. As I mentioned, I lost my oldest brother at the Battle of Anzio. I don't think there were many families in those days who weren't profoundly touched by the war.

I was reminded of this last June when I visited the Normandy Beaches for the first time. I can't tell you how moving it was to see the monuments left to our courageous fighters in the D-Day Invasion, and to walk among the rows of graves of Americans who had given their lives in service to their country as well as to liberate Europe from the hell of Nazi occupation.

Please don't misunderstand me. I do not mean to infer that courage is something that disappeared after the Vietnam War. The young men and women who volunteer today to serve their country overseas, volunteer knowing that they may risk their lives. They volunteer out of love for their country and because they know that, without sacrifice, there would be no United States of America, the beacon of freedom in the world.

Today young Americans are serving our country on ships in the Mediterranean, on bases in the Middle East, and in dangerous assignments all over the world. We call upon their courage and their patriotism to risk their lives to protect our ships passing through the Panama Canal and elsewhere.

We should remember them and all of our armed forces overseas today in our prayers, as we enjoy ourselves here in Las Vegas.

I know that many speakers have mentioned that there is a group, that sometimes in this country, we have forgotten, who cannot be here with us this morning. These are the POWs and MIAs still unaccounted for in Vietnam and Cambodia, as well as other parts of the world.

You may know my Nevada colleague, Congressman Jim Bilbray, and I have introduced legislation in the House of Representatives to see that the POW/MIA Flag is flown from all federal buildings. In this way, all those going to their post office or other federal buildings will be reminded of the urgency not to forget these brave men and women still missing and suffering in foreign lands, and the agony of their families not knowing of their condition or their whereabouts.

We have already passed a bill to fly the POW/MIA Flag in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol, where thousands of Americans visit every day, and I think this is a good first step. I see it every time I walk in the Capitol. Our Bill, House Joint Resolution 266, is the best next step until all these men and women are returned home once and for all.

I cannot leave you today without emphasizing my outrage at the Supreme Court's decision on the burning of the American Flag. I was horrified that the destruction of the flag could be loosely interpreted as exercising a right to free speech.

Old Glory is the foremost symbol of our country, and one that you have fought under and that your comrades have died for. To



destroy it is to insult all the values which we stand for as Americans.

I support a Constitutional Amendment to punish the desecration of our flag, or any other means by which Congress can overrule this appalling decision by the Supreme Court. I know that you will be supporting those of us in Congress who are working in this effort.

It is vital that you and your organization continue to keep the memory of courage, idealism and love of country alive. We must communicate these values to future generations of young Americans, protected by your sacrifice and nurtured by the freedoms which you bought for us at great price.

I know time is short and I want to make one other comment before I conclude. Some of you may not know that I have been very active in the battle for wilderness, and I would just like to thank all of you for your support in taking the conservative approach to federal wilderness expansion in Nevada and elsewhere.

As some of you may be aware, federal wilderness locks out anyone except the physically fit. I call them the deep breathers. Those are the people who can pack in and out and take all their supplies. The elderly and the disabled, and even children, are not going to be able to enjoy these areas.

They are off limits to mechanized transportation. That event talks about bicycles. I very much appreciate your support of this issue, because it is an uphill fight for me in Congress.

I again would like to tell you, you have many, many supporters and people who feel very strongly about you in Congress. I want you to know that you can always count on me for support in Congress. Thank you very much for giving me the privilege to appear before you.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Congresswoman Vucanovich, thank you very much for spending time with us and thanks so much for your continuing support in the Congress.

#### INTRODUCTION—GOVERNOR ROBERT MILLER—STATE OF NEVADA

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. This morning we are highly honored to have with us Governor Bob Miller, the Chief Executive of our Host State of Nevada.

Born in Chicago, Governor Miller graduated from high school here in Las Vegas and earned a Political Science degree from the University of Santa Clara. He later received a Doctor of Law degree from Loyola University in Los Angeles.

He was the Deputy District Attorney here in Clark County from 1971 to 1973, and subsequently the first Legal Advisor to the local Police Department. Governor Miller also served seven years as the Clark County District Attorney and became the first Clark County District Attorney to win re-election in modern times.

He was chosen by President Reagan to serve on the nine-member Task Force on Victims of Crime. He has also chaired the Nevada Commissions on Tourism and Economic Development.

Elected Lieutenant Governor in 1987, he assumed the state leadership in January of this year. Please welcome Governor Bob Miller of Nevada.

## GREETINGS—THE HONORABLE ROBERT MILLER, STATE OF NEVADA

Governor MILLER. Thank you. Welcome to the great State of Nevada. One thing I would like to set straight is a common misperception about the derivation of the name "Nevada". We are proud of our Hispanic and Asian American heritage in our state, but despite that fact Nevada is not Spanish for "where in the hell did all my money go."

Now, should you find yourself to be that one unfortunate person that leaves here with less money than you arrived with and that, of course, would be a rarity, I want you to have the comfort of knowledge that the majority of our state's revenue is derived from taxes upon the gaming industry and the majority of that revenue in turn goes to educate our children.

So if you are that unfortunate person, you can go home and tell your friends and neighbors that you were in Nevada making a donation to the needy school children.

We are very proud of our veterans here in the State of Nevada, and after I give brief greetings to you I am going in the adjacent room with our Nevada delegation to present a proclamation to one of our more distinguished members, Edward Spear, for all he has accomplished over the years.

He is an example of all of you in this room that work so hard to further your cause. It was brought home more recently to me again the value of the veterans of our country when earlier this week the remains of a high school classmate and friend of mine finally returned to Nevada from the Vietnam War.

I remember dedicating the MIA statue at a local cemetery about a year and one-half ago and talking to his parents about my remembrance of the two of us growing up and the tragedy that has befallen all of them with the lack of certainty as to his life or death. Even now, there is uncertainty of whether those remains belong to Larry VanRestler.

It is for that reason and the reason of pride that all of us have in Nevada for those of our citizens who have stepped forward in the best interest of our country. About a month ago, I proclaimed the drive to go forward to establish Veteran Memorials in both Las Vegas and Reno.

I selected a local resident, Scott Lyon, one of the original members of the elite Native Seals organizations, to obtain representatives from all service groups in our community and raise approximately \$100,000 for these memorials, \$10,000 of which has already been raised.

Although we have not selected a site, I know that we are at least looking at the prospect of putting these in our two major airports, one here and one in Reno. It is a small token, but I think it is an important one, because all of us in Nevada are very proud of our men and women in the service and we are very proud and pleased to have all of you here make our country so great and spend some of your relaxation time in business meetings here in our community. Enjoy yourselves, be productive and go home winners.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you very much, Governor.

**PRESENTATION OF VFW NEWS MEDIA AWARD AND GOLD MEDAL AND  
CITATION TO MR. DREW MIDDLETON, NEW YORK TIMES**

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. This year we are honored to present the prestigious VFW News Media Award to a distinguished American.

A journalist and author, Drew Middleton, the retired Military Correspondent for the New York Times, is a powerful influence in the field of journalism.

Prior to his retirement in 1986, Mr. Middleton was the Military Correspondent for the Times covering military developments throughout the United States and the world.

For more than 48 years as a journalist, Mr. Middleton has been a keen observer and reporter of those history-making events which have shaped the world. From his days as the youngest reporter with the British Expeditionary Force to Military Correspondent for the Times, Mr. Middleton's reporting and analysis have enlightened the American public.

He has been the Times' Chief Correspondent in Moscow, Germany, London and Paris. He has headed up the Times' United Nations Bureau and has covered NATO and the common market countries as the Times' European Affairs Correspondent.

Among Mr. Middleton's numerous awards are a Navy Certificate of Merit, a Commendation of the British Empire, Military Division; the United States Medal of Freedom, an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree and Distinguished Service Award from his alma mater, Syracuse University.

On a personal note, I might add that Mr. Middleton is here to receive his award against his doctor's advice. We are certainly pleased that he chose to come and wish him well.

Would you, please, join me in welcoming a distinguished journalist and American, Drew Middleton.

[Whereupon, the assembly extended a prolonged rising ovation to Drew Middleton.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. If you will allow me to read the Citation, it reads as follows:

In grateful recognition of his more than 48 years of service as an author, journalist and military correspondent, and whose forthright reporting and analysis have provided the American public with greater insight and understanding of their Armed Forces and our national security.

This has been signed by myself as the Commander-in-Chief and attested to by the Adjutant General.

**RESPONSE—DREW MIDDLETON**

Mr. DREW MIDDLETON. Nobody can possibly be prouder of this award than I am. I will not be able to talk long for reasons you can obviously hear. But I feel a certain kinship with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, because some of you must have been out there that gusty February day when rebels came storming through the Gazala Pass and May Day when Bradley took M-609 over the road to victory.

Then you were there as well at that mismanaged battle Cerignola, that is the way I remember it. Of course, you were there

again at those ill-fated French places which we call Omaha and Utah Beaches.

I keep thinking back to those battle days in World War II where I understand after the Germans rode through in their last great offenses at the Baltic. Now, we all know about Generals, Army Commanders and Corps Managers, but in the end it was you, the soldier, the G.I. and the young officers who held the Pass, who would not let go. You were the ones who eventually stopped the Battle of the Bulge.

These are times when the United States is going to need tradition, and you have the traditions of 90 years. I hope you use it. The world around us is changing very fast. It would not be more than five years ago, but it is slowly changing both in the Eastern Europe and perhaps within Washington itself.

We are going to see tremendous changes in that time. The United States will not only need good leadership, it will need good credible people who know what war is all about and who know how bad it is, and also people that can stand up and be counted when the chips are down.

It is the people of the Veterans of Foreign Wars that I appeal to at this moment to maintain, as you have over the last 90 years, the dignity and honor of the American soldier. Again thank you and God bless you all.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, Mr. Middleton, for your service.

At this time I would like to call on Past Commander-in-Chief and Chairman John Stang for the report of the Committee on National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL BY-LAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AND RITUAL

Past Commander-in-Chief JOHN STANG. Good morning, comrades. First, I would like to introduce the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Past Commander-in-Chief John Staum, from the great State of Minnesota.

Our committee was represented by 33 Departments and 53 members. I am happy to report that all of them were present for the committee meeting. I don't know if all of you have copies of the proposed amendments to the By-Laws before you. If not, you can refer to copies that other members of your delegation have, or ask for information and we will attempt to answer your questions from this station.

I will report only those amendments that the committee approved. If the committee rejected the proposed amendments, they will not be reported. If you want to discuss any of the committee's recommendations, ask for that particular amendment to be set aside and the Commander-in-Chief will order it done.

B-1 through B-11, basically, are housekeeping, clean-up amendments dealing with the definition of the seals, cover units, uniform, badges and insignia, name, procedure for disciplinary action, rules of order, et cetera. B-1 through B-11 were recommended for approval by your committee.



M-1 through M-11—that would be the Manual of Procedure—were recommended for approval by the committee.

Commander-in-Chief, those are the ones recommended for approval by the Committee on National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual.

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief KIMERY. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I am Jim Kimery, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. I would like to ask that B-12 and M-12 be set aside.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. B-12 and M-12 will be set aside. Do I hear a motion that we adopt those recommended by the committee?

Comrade ART MORIN (Post 2692—New Jersey). I move that this Convention concur with the recommendation of the By-Laws Committee in adopting those resolutions that have not been set aside and those that have not been rejected.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion on the floor and you have heard the motion. Is there a second?

Comrade GLEN GARDNER (Post 3359—Texas). I will second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion and a second on the floor that this Convention adopt the actions and recommendations of the committee, with the exception of B-12 and M-12, and those have been set aside. Any discussion on the motion?

The motion on the floor is open for debate, and the motion is that we adopt the resolutions recommended for adoption by the committee. Is there any discussion on that motion, on the motion to adopt? Is there any discussion?

Seeing no discussion, all in favor will signify by saying "aye"; those opposed "no". The motion carries. B-12 and M-12 have been set aside. Is there a motion to adopt B-12 and M-12? They have been set aside. Is there a motion to adopt?

Comrade GLEN GARDNER (Post 3359—Texas). I move we adopt B-12 and M-12.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion on the floor to adopt B-12 and M-12. Is there a second?

Comrade GERALD BURKEL (Post 5873—Wisconsin). I second it.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Here is a motion and a second that we adopt B-12 and M-12. That places that motion on the floor for discussion. Is there any discussion on the motion moving the adoption of B-12 and M-12?

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief KIMERY. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I have visited 25 different Departments of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and I have had people express a desire to have consolidation of Posts, and I feel since we are a grass roots organization that we should take the mandates from the grass roots people.

Everyone is not fortunate enough to come and attend a National Convention and speak on this, and I am sorry that I didn't make the committee meeting to voice my approval, because I was tied up with the Awards Luncheon here. The committee had adjourned, and I thought it was going to reconvene yesterday. I was hoping that 25 Departments that voiced concern about this would rise in support of this.

Comrade HAROLD WILSER (Post 506—Michigan). I rise in support of this motion and to permit the consolidation of Posts. From my

previous experience on the Department level, I find that most of the Posts that are cancelled, the members become members-at-large, and about half of the members will not renew their membership.

If we can consolidate them with a stronger Post, I am sure those members who may be reluctant to re-join the organization will have a chance to remain in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Therefore, I am in favor of this motion to adopt.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there any further discussion? We will go to Microphone No. 3.

Comrade MURREL LEWIS (Post 5662—Kentucky). Commander-in-Chief, it has been our experience in the Department of Kentucky when Posts request to be merged, that there is a dispute and debate over the adoption of the Post number and the Post name.

So, therefore, if it would be in order, I would like to propose an amendment to the motion to adopt, that the decision as to what Post number and Post name may be used by the merging units be mutually agreed upon by those merging units rather than mandated that the oldest Post number be used for that Post.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Murrel, our By-Laws must be adopted or rejected as submitted because of the publication requirements that we have before they can come on the floor. So I will have to rule any amendment to the By-Laws out of order.

Comrade MURREL LEWIS (Post 5662—Kentucky). Thank you, Commander.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there any discussion or debate in opposition to the motion to approve? Is there any speaker rising to speak in opposition to the motion to approve? If there is not, it seems to the Chair that it is the consensus of opinion that we should adopt, if someone would move the question.

Comrade ART MORIN (Post 2692—New Jersey). I move the previous question, Comrade Commander-in-Chief.

Comrade GLEN GARDNER (Post 3359—Texas). I second it.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The question has been moved and seconded. All in favor of adopting B-12 and M-12, let it be known by saying "aye"; those opposed say "no". B-12 and M-12 are adopted.

Past Commander-in-Chief STANG. On behalf of the committee, I want the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief and all those who didn't accept the recommendations that our hearts are not broken.

I think that completes the report of the National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual Committee. As Chairman of the committee, at this time I ask that we be discharged.

Comrade RONALD RUSAKIEWICZ (Post 9460—Connecticut). We have been waiting to set aside a Resolution, Comrade Commander-in-Chief.

I am Ron Rusakiewicz from Post 9460, Connecticut, and I ask that M-13 be set aside, please.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Mr. Chairman, is M-13 in the package of the motions that were adopted? M-13 will be set aside.

Comrade RONALD RUSAKIEWICZ (Post 9460—Connecticut). I make a motion that we adopt M-13.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion to adopt M-13. Is there a second to that motion?

Comrade BRIAN KENNEDY (Post 1523—Kentucky). Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I am Brian Kennedy, Post 1523, Department of Kentucky, and I second the motion to adopt.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion and a second to adopt M-13. Mr. Chairman, if you would briefly tell the delegates the gist of M-13.

Past Commander-in-Chief STANG. I would be happy to, Commander-in-Chief. M-13 deals with Eligibility. I believe the same type of amendment has been proposed to this Convention for the last five or six years, and it has been rejected by the Convention floor.

It would read:

Amend Section 101, Manual of Procedure, by adding at the end of the section a new Eligibility category as follows: "National Defense Service Medal, 30 consecutive days or 60 days not consecutive duty outside continental limits of the United States. The period would be between 27 June, 1950, through 27 July, 1954, and 1 January, 1961, through 15 August, 1974."

That is the amendment that was submitted in its entirety, Commander-in-Chief.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrades and sisters, as the Chairman says, basically, this By-Law Amendment has come before us at least for the past six or seven years, to my knowledge.

Having said that, the floor is now open for debate on the motion to change the VFW Eligibility and adopt M-13.

We will go to Microphone No. 2.

Comrade THOMAS FRANKLIN (Post 4224—Louisiana). Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I am Thomas Franklin, Past Commander of the State of Louisiana, Post 4224. I rise once again in opposition to this motion. I am a Vietnam Veteran, just like yourself, and I feel that this is a slap in the face to both the Korean Veterans and the Vietnam Veterans to keep bringing this back up.

We voted it down in the past six years. Why should we have to go through this every year. If they had wanted to become eligible, all they had to do was to volunteer for Vietnam. The guys on the beaches in Spain, France, England, they are just as eligible as we are.

I am in opposition to that, and I feel every Vietnam Veteran is going to feel the same way.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Microphone No. 3.

Comrade DOMINIC ROMANO (Post 7330—Connecticut). I rise in favor of the National Defense Service Medal. Just a couple of weeks ago, two good Vietnam comrades and myself went into an area in Connecticut and formed a Veterans of Foreign Wars Post. We shot-gunned it and we had 41 responses.

Eleven of them had the National Defense Medal with overseas duty. Three were Vietnam Veterans and seven were Korean Veterans. Five of those were Occupation Forces. Twenty were World War II Veterans.

Comrades, if you can't breathe the patter, you are in serious trouble. As this comrade said before, these people should have gone some place else. It is not always in your case that you can go from one place to the other. When you are in the military, you usually go where you are sent and not other than that.

I feel that at the present time, comrades, we are facing a crisis in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. You are looking at the aging veteran. The average age of a veteran in the Veterans of Foreign Wars at the present time is 67 years old. That means many are over 67, and a heck of a lot older than that.

I also want to bring to your attention the fact that we are losing members by the car loads. As a Post Commander, there is not a single week that doesn't go by that I don't go to a Wake. It is going to get worse before it gets better.

We have always opted in the Veterans of Foreign Wars on a crisis pattern. The crisis, my comrades, is today. It will not be ten years from now, because our ranks are going to be decimated. If we never had a medal that was eligible for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, that was overseas and non-overseas, I wouldn't be standing here in front of you.

We have lived with the American Campaign Medal for almost 50 years, and there has been no big deal in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. It is a medal given to you or worked on. That is overseas and non-overseas. The National Defense Service Medal is comparable to the American Theater Medal. We have lived with it and we can live with the other.

I just want you fellows to look at the gentleman to the right and to the left of you. You are going to see an aged veteran. I am not going to be because I am a World War II Veteran myself. I want you to know we are not going to be there. I show no disrespect to any of you at all.

I am a realist. Believe me, we may not pass this now, but you younger fellows will be here when it is passed. Thank you very much.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrades, if there is going to be a prolonged debate, I will have to adjourn it. We are getting behind on the schedule, so we will have to suspend the debate on M-13, even though the Chair is convinced the body is overwhelmingly against the amendment.

I will suspend the debate so we can continue with the program. If there is some debate, we will take it up again. We will get our honored guests to the platform to speak. We will suspend the report of your committee, Mr. Chairman, so we can take care of the pertinent Convention business, and we will pick it up appropriately.

We will give everybody that wants to speak, a chance to speak at this assembly, and that is what we are ordered to do at this Convention. The report is suspended. We will pick it up in due course.

#### INTRODUCTION—PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF COOPER T. HOLT

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrades, the next honor I have is indeed a special one for me as Commander-in-Chief. It is an opportunity to make a presentation not only to a friend but to a true comrade.

The presentation itself falls into the category of bittersweet, and what more can we say about this man that hasn't been said by our national leaders during the past year. For example, President Bush last March during our Annual Washington Conference said, "I



can't believe Cooper Holt is stepping down this year after more than a quarter of a century of distinguished service as Executive Director. But let me tell you something. Cooper has earned the gratitude of veterans everywhere for making the VFW his life-long cause."

Certainly, I can't believe he is leaving either, but I do know he will remain active providing invaluable counsel and advice. His list of achievements on behalf of our organization is too long to mention here this morning. But if you think back to every beneficial thing that has happened to veterans in Congress, in the Veterans Administration, in the national security arena, you can bet Cooper had a very significant input.

As the leader of our Washington office and as an eloquent spokesman for the organization, Cooper has no equal. As a fighter for your entitlements and those of 28 million veterans across our nation, Cooper has no equal. As someone who has had the best interest of the organization at heart, Cooper has no equal.

It is now my great honor and personal pleasure to bestow the VFW Gold Medal of Merit and Citation on Mr. VFW, Cooper T. Holt.

[Whereupon, the assembly extended a prolonged rising ovation to Past Commander-in-Chief Holt.]

PRESENTATION OF VFW GOLD MEDAL OF MERIT AND CITATION TO PAST  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF COOPER T. HOLT

Past Commander-in-Chief HOLT. Well, I knew you folks would be happy when I left this place, but I didn't know you would be that happy. I appreciate it anyhow.

Commander-in-Chief Rivers, National Officers, Council of Administration Members, Past Commanders-in-Chief, my Fellow Members of the greatest Veterans Organization in the land:

I am talking about all of you out in front of me. I want you to know after my God, after my family, you folks are and have been and always will be the love of my life. Nothing will change that.

Larry, I want to thank you ever so much for this prestigious award, the VFW Gold Medal of Merit and Citation, and believe me, my friends, it is an award that I am proud to be the recipient of, one which I shall always cherish. When the good Lord calls me home, I will hand it down to my grandson.

Coming from you, Larry, makes it doubly important because, first of all, in my opinion, and that is all I am entitled to here, I guess, you have certainly made one of the greatest Commanders-in-Chief this organization has ever had.

Secondly, everyone knows by now that you will replace me, and I mean that word literally, as the Assistant Adjutant General and Executive Director of our VFW Washington Office. That is a position I know you will serve with honor, you will serve with prestige and you will serve with dignity.

My friends, in my lifetime three ladies have been involved and have contributed much to whatever success I might have attained in life. One is my mother, and she died four years ago, and I am sure she is looking down from heaven this morning. Secondly, my wife.

Some of you folks think I am tough and rough and all that sort of stuff. Let me tell you something, this gal has put up with me for 45 years, a couple of years from now, and I think she deserves a hand, my lovely wife Betty. [Applause.]

Then, of course, all of us have a right hand and a left hand somewhere along life's way, and the third lady I want to speak of is my Secretary. Again, you think old Cooper is hard to get along with, maybe to some of you folks, I don't know, but this one has put up with me for 26 cotton-picking years.

She has been an employee of the VFW for 28 years, and let me tell you something, she is a loyal, dedicated employee of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, my Secretary, Nancy Pomeroy.

Now, my friends, this tribute coming from people that I have served and worked for for so long, certainly fills me with emotion, as it would you. It is emotion I can't express, obviously. Believe it or not, I am a sentimental person.

I want to tell you, I have got a lot of folks to thank. I am not going to take the time to do that this morning. I just wish to recommend to you, if you will, that I mentioned a lot of folks in our National Convention Program Report, and I hope those of you that are interested in it will take the time to read it because it will save a little time here this morning.

As many of you know, my association with the Veterans of Foreign Wars has been a memorable one. I can't begin to describe to you how proud I am to be a member and to work on behalf of a group of Americans who are special to me and obviously to you.

Those Americans proudly bear the title veteran and they have always had my total respect and admiration and, they always will.

When I first entered the Veterans of Foreign Wars some 44 years ago and began dealing with veterans, first, as a Post Advocate of my Post in Chattanooga, Tennessee, 1289, and subsequently as your National Commander-in-Chief and now for 26 years, Executive Director of your Washington office, I learned quickly, friends, that all our veterans want and ask for, and the only thing they demand, is a fair shake.

And, by damn, if you will excuse the expression, that is why we have a VFW, to make sure, always, that they do get a fair shake. Nothing more, nothing less will we take in their behalf.

I have enjoyed my work. I have been happy in trying to serve the veteran, his widow and dependents, and I have worked for a strong national defense. I have never and will never apologize to anyone for supporting those two endeavors and the two objectives of the VFW.

As you well know, we have won some battles along the way and lost some battles. But as far as I am concerned, that is life. I want you to know I am grateful to the VFW for the opportunity that you have given me to work for you and for them.

But more than that, my friends, and it is very important to me, more important is that I have had the opportunity to affect people's lives, many of you sitting in this room here today. That is one thing that I will always remember.

When I first entered the Veterans of Foreign Wars, they told me that it would be challenges in life and there have been day-by-day.

So I have got a little talk I want to give to you this morning, probably my parting words to you. Of course, it will be about veterans. That is really the only thing I know anything about, and to be specific, and some of you have heard me talk, I am going to repeat some things I have said on previous occasions.

"What is so special about the veteran?" My friends, I personally wrote this speech almost 20 years ago when President Johnson tried to close 35 VA facilities. Believe me, my friends, it is as applicable today as it was 20 years ago and when I finish I think you will agree with me.

Let me begin by quoting from several sources that are in the forefront attacking our veterans' programs, all, some called "Think Tanks" who have a great influence on the President of the United States and with many members of the Congress, and I am sorry to say, upon several top VA officials.

First is the Grace Commission Recommendations and what they have to say. They say that the average length of hospital stays in VA facilities be reduced to a level comparable to that found in the private sector. That funds for VA Hospital construction, not already under contract, be deleted from the budget.

They also say that bids be invited from private hospital management companies to lease hospital facilities to the VA under long-term contracts. They recommend that VA Hospital facilities be managed by private companies under short-term performance contracts; that VA Nursing Home construction be entirely discontinued.

They recommend that acute care VA Hospital beds be reduced, as necessary, to achieve an 80-percent occupancy rate for such beds and that some under-utilized acute health care facilities be converted to extended health care facilities, and that old hospital facilities, which may be in need of replacements or significant reconstruction be phased out. That is the Grace Commission for you, the man who doesn't even pay income tax on his big business.

Now, for the Heritage Foundation Recommendations.

Compensation payments should be limited to veterans and survivors of veterans whose disabilities are traceable either to combat or job performance as defined under Workmen's Compensation Regulations.

My friends, when in the hell did Workmen's Compensation enter into a veterans' program? Will you tell me that? They think, "Congress should eliminate all pension for veterans and survivors of veterans which are not compensable as service-connected."

It is recommended that the present VA Health Care System be dismantled. Those veterans with legitimate claims for medical attention of service-connected conditions may obtain that care on a reimbursable basis for community facilities as to Medicaid and Medicare patients.

The third one I will speak of is the Congressional Budget Office's Recommendations.

Hospitals operated by the VA could be dismantled by 1990. The VA would continue to assist poor veterans and those with service-connected disabilities in obtaining care in private hospitals on a contract fee-basis and reimbursement procedure.

Institute cost-sharing arrangements—Instead of providing total free hospital and nursing home care to veterans without service-connected conditions, the VA could institute a cost-sharing arrangement for them.

Eliminate compensation payments for veterans with service-connected disabilities rated at less than 30 percent. Eliminate the additional allowance for dependents of veterans rated at less than 50 percent for their service-connected disabilities.

Now, my friends, these groups, these individuals, you must admit seem to have one objective in common and that objective would be the complete elimination of veterans' programs, or putting it another way, all of them are asking the same question, "What is so special about the veteran?"

So here this morning as my parting shot, I wish to direct my remarks to that particular question: "What is so special about the veteran?"

Out of all the debate regarding this nation's views on veterans' legislation and the debate as to the type of programs our nation's veterans are receiving, and whether or not we should have a Department of Veterans Affairs—a new cabinet position—has come an unhealthy trend in America, a tendency on the part of too many members of Congress and the groups I mentioned previously to look down on the veteran, to cut away his just benefits, to cast him aside now that our nation is not at war.

Yes, my friends, it is the same old story. While a war is being fought, the serviceman is dearly loved, but when the war ends, the man who served is soon forgotten by many of our people.

I have heard it said many times, the day a nation turns its back on its veterans, that is the day it becomes an ungrateful nation and will no longer be considered great among the other nations of the earth. I concur in that thought 100 percent.

Too many Americans have forgotten what all veterans have done. I am here this morning to tell you it is not enough to think of and honor the heroes of war, both living and dead, the men who have won our nation's highest honors by their military valor or by their bravery, the gallant soldiers who parachuted behind enemy lines, those who single-handedly captured or killed large numbers of enemy troops, or who threw themselves on a hand grenade, overseas or here in this country in training, to save the lives of their comrades.

No, it is not enough to honor only those noble men. All veterans, and don't you forget it, have made great sacrifices. And it is not right to say, as many people do, that those who have served as our defenders in war "have merely done their duty."

Our newspaper recently expressed its opinion candidly: "When veterans make up a tiny portion of the United States population, it perhaps could be reasonably argued that they deserve special treatment as long as they live, but 27 million Americans are veterans, well over 10 percent of the population. Congress must decide whether it really wants to perpetuate the preferred status of such a large segment of our society."

Now, therefore, for such newspapers, and believe me there are many others, 49 of them editorially opposed a cabinet position for our nation's veterans—for the Grace Commission, the Heritage Foundation and the Congressional Budget Office and for the anti-veterans groups around this country, in and out of government, I would like to explain what is so special about a veteran.

First of all, the veteran is special because he is selected. Right away, the fact that he is selected makes him something special and



puts him in a class by himself. He is no longer free; he is subject to military law, and he becomes a special breed, committed to fight to the death for the ideals of freedom around the world.

As you know, he cannot be flat-footed; he cannot be lame; he cannot be uncertain or short visioned, he must be as perfect as possible. Not only physically perfect, but the veteran must be mentally alert. He must be able to read and write; he must have some talent.

Furthermore, he must be morally fit; he cannot be a criminal; he cannot be perverted; he cannot be nervously unstable. He must know the difference between right and wrong. He lives in unsegregated barracks, black and white together, as equals. They fight together and they die together for freedom around the world. The lame, the sick and the uncertain are rejected.

Conscientious Objectors, students and key people in lucrative positions are excused or labeled "4-F." Only the best physically, mentally and morally are called to war. So, only the best are a special breed. The tragedy of war is that only the best are fit to be killed. So, even in our sophisticated society this special breed performs a sacrificial service. Only the brave are selected and only a race of ingrates would forget their sacrifice.

From the heights of Iwo Jima to the depths of Vietnam, the veteran is a special breed. Our enemies recognize the veterans is special. That's why they single him out from time to time and rage: "Go home, G.I.!" He can make an amphibious landing; he can take a hill; he can storm a bunker; he can annihilate the enemies of freedom. But he can also feed the widow and the orphan; he can become the friend of children in foreign lands better than any diplomat that has been assigned to the State Departments. And, yet, some people have the gall to ask, "What is so special about the veteran?"

My friends, the veteran is a special breed because only Congress can make a veteran and only Congress can break a veteran. At this point, the veteran becomes the special charge and the special responsibility of the Congress. No one can take this special charge and the special responsibility of Congress, and no one can take this special charge and the special responsibility from Congress. Certainly not the President of the United States and certainly not our Secretary of Veterans Affairs. No one can take that charge from the Congress.

And this special breed, this select group, these physical specimens—only the best—these citizen soldiers went to war at the behest of Congress, in defense of freedom all over the world, and they became the best fighting men history has every known.

My friends, they came home veterans, gassed or shellshocked from Chateau Thierry, bedraggled from the Battle of the Bulge, burned from the Franklin, hungry from Corregidor, frozen from Chosen Reservoir, maimed from Vietnam. Some came back with yellow fever, some with malaria, some with TB. Some came back psycho, some alcoholic; yes, some even returned as dope addicts.

These are the men who were the best when they went to war. God only knows what condition they were in when they came back. But to the President and to the Congress, they should still be the greatest.

As time marched on, attitudes toward the enemies of freedom became more liberal, and the ugly American became more bold and brazen even to ask: "What is so special about the veteran?" But the Congress of the people of these United States should answer firmly: "The veteran is still something special to us. He is our charge; he is our responsibility because he answered our call when we needed him, first in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen."

That is why Congress created the Veterans Administration, because only Congress can make a veteran and only Congress can break a veteran. Only Congress can break a veteran if these representatives of the people no longer cared. But Congress did care—to its everlasting glory, Congress did care.

Congress kept faith with the veteran by contracting to care for the veteran with service-connected disability—and the veteran with non-service-connected disability—whenever a bed was available and the veteran could not pay for hospital care—rather than allow the veteran, who was once the greatest, to be disgraced as a pauper or disgrace the uniform by becoming a public welfare charge.

As I am about to retire, I say to you in all sincerity, the future of our veterans' programs is in doubt. Have no doubt about that in your minds. We, in the VFW, had better fear future events. Of one thing we can be certain, our organization, and all veterans' organizations, are faced with an unprecedented challenge.

We must accept as fact the premise that many groups in this country are looking beyond its nation's veterans. The present climate in your nation's Capitol suggests programs for each spectrum of our society. In other words, there is something for everyone—everyone, that is, except the old veteran who made it all possible.

From him they want one more drop of blood, the very benefits which a grateful nation awarded following armed conflict. From this point on, as I said, we have but one path to follow. We must seek out every eligible veteran in this country and bring to him the fact that there is only one way to save that which remains of our VA programs. We must enlist these men in our cause. This is surely a struggle for survival as were the toughest campaigns in any of our wars.

As in war, the only thing that will save us is might. Only through the might of numbers can we survive. We may be late, but not too late to save that which remains. So, as I depart as your Assistant Adjutant General and Executive Director of the Washington Office, I call on every officer of our great organization, past and present—yes, and upon every individual member—to enlist in the greatest membership campaign our organization has ever undertaken.

There will be no gimmicks or no prizes in this campaign. There will be the satisfaction, though, of knowing that we are fighting for the hospitalized and disabled veteran who can no longer fight for himself.

And if successful—and we must be—there will be the satisfaction of knowing that once more the veteran's voice will be heard, that he will fight for his rights as he once fought so that his country might remain free.

As we leave this Convention, I urge, I beg, I plead that you rededicate yourself to attaining the greatest membership our VFW has ever known under Wally Hogan's leadership. The time is short. We have no way of knowing when the next blow shall come. But when it does, let us be ready. If we, in the VFW, forget our nation's veterans, believe me, they will be forgotten.

Finally, I want you to know I am sincerely looking forward to spending more time with my family and devoting more energy to some of my other interests. Don't expect to see me driving around in a recreational vehicle with a bumper sticker saying, "Retired and Proud Of It." That is not for me. It may be for some of you folks, but that is not Cooper Holt's way of doing things.

After having spent 26 years laboring in the pressure cooker known as Capitol Hill, I have gotten to the point in my life where I can truly understand that even a bad day spent golfing actually is better than a good day in the office.

Even so, I would like to mention that although I may no longer be seen at the office after September 1 on a daily basis, I will most certainly not be completely out of the picture. I will always be a part of the Washington scene. I will be thinking, watching and helping where I can. And if the need ever arises, I will rush to the assistance of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary to serve in any capacity where I am needed.

Finally, I have enjoyed working for and with each of you. It has been fun and I certainly hope and pray that God continues to bless each and every one of you, as he has me. Thank you very much.

[Whereupon, the assembly extended a prolonged rising ovation to Past Commander-in-Chief Holt.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. I wanted to read the Citation to you, Cooper, after you spoke. Let me take a second and read it.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Gold Medal of Merit and this Citation awarded to Cooper T. Holt in grateful recognition and appreciation for his meritorious service as an articulate spokesman for veterans' causes and rights, and for his distinguished leadership as Commander-in-Chief from 1956 to 1957, and in serving with dignity, esteem and unparalleled expertise as Executive Director of the Washington Office of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States for 26 years.

Cooper, we are proud of you, and this is something that is small but let me tell you what you have from us, you have our respect and our everlasting gratitude for who you are and what you have done.

#### INTRODUCTION OF CONGRESSMAN LANE EVANS, UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—ILLINOIS

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. It is now my distinct pleasure to present to you a distinguished and highly esteemed member of the United States House of Representatives, Congressman Lane Evans. Representative Evans, a Democrat from Rock Island, represents Illinois' 17th Congressional District. He was elected to Congress in November, 1982, and is now serving in his fourth term.

Representative Evans is Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. He also serves on the Subcommittees on Education, Training and Employment, as well as Compensation, Pension and Insurance.

The only Illinois member of the House Armed Services Committee, Representative Evans is a member of the Investigations and Procurement Subcommittees and the Panel on the Department of Energy Nuclear Production Facilities. He also serves on the Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families.

Representative Evans is a Vietnam-era Veteran of the United States Marine Corps, receiving his honorable discharge in 1971.

In the 101st Congress, Representative Evans is House Chairman of the Vietnam-era Veterans in Congress and Co-Chairman of the Congressional Populist Caucus. He is also an at-large majority whip and a member of the governing body of the Democratic Study Group.

Last term, he was named a "Consumer Hero" by the Consumer Federation of America and received a perfect scorecard from the League of Conservation Voters.

I now present to you Congressman Lane Evans.

ADDRESS BY THE HONORABLE LANE EVANS, U.S. HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES—ILLINOIS

Congressman EVANS. Thank you very much. Thank you, Commander-in-Chief Rivers, for that kind introduction. Thank you, my fellow Marines out there. It is a quasi-national response. I am proud to be here and appreciate the opportunity to speak to you.

As I look across this great hall, I see the greatness of our country. I see people from all kinds of different professions, farmers, small business people, workers. Some of you are even retired. I see Marines, I see seamen, I see airmen and Army veterans. I really do see the strength of this great nation of ours. You are the one that have built this country, paid its taxes and defended it in the time of war and done all to make this country the greatest country in the world.

As a fellow veteran, as a member of the Veterans House Affairs Committee, it is a great honor to be with you. Cooper, I am pleased to be with you and hear your remarks today. Some might be saying that this is your swan song, but everyone here knows that you have soared like an eagle for over a quarter of a century with your dedicated service to the VFW and to our nation.

You may not know it, but Cooper Holt took over as National Commander when I was entering kindergarten. We will not let Cooper retire, even if he wants to. We need your help in those battles that we face ahead with the budget cutters in Washington, D.C. I feel confident Commander-in-Chief Rivers will be able to take over where Cooper left off.

Since I do have this opportunity, I want to thank Maurice Kerckhove, the Illinois State Commander, and the whole Illinois delegation that is with us today. I can see them over to the side. Maurice has now served for seven years on my Veterans Advisory Committee. He is a good friend and advocate of veterans of all eras.

I know you will be listening to another Illinoisan in a short time, Secretary Ed Derwinski of Veterans Affairs. I would like to offer praise to the job he is doing. You know, we have had a problem, it seems to me, in the past for the Veterans Administration. It has not been as responsive as some had hoped.



That is why the VFW joins us in elevating the status of the VA to the cabinet level status. I am pleased that the first cabinet level Secretary of Veterans Affairs has reversed that and in deference to our nation's veterans, that adverse Administration for Veterans Service, as first Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs he has made sure there is a strong voice sitting at the cabinet table speaking up for our veterans.

The respect that he has commanded in his first two months on the job is making sure that he is being heard continually in that office.

I come to you today as a member of a family of veterans. My father served as an Atomic Veteran shortly after World War II. My brother was a fellow Marine that fought in Vietnam. My great-great-grandfather was a Union soldier during the Civil War. I am telling you I am quite proud to be from a long line of enlisted veterans in our country.

Although I am of Vietnam-era veterans, I stand before you as one not representing just one era, but all men and women who have served our nation. Veterans of all eras are faced by some common problems. One striking problem involves the delivery of health care.

Rather than assume a hospital bed and medicine will be available for our veterans, we are being faced with the question will it be available at all? I have worked in the past for the supplemental appropriation for health care funding that will support health care programs through September.

It provides to relieve the crisis that we are presently experiencing. I and fellow members of the Veterans Affairs Committee worked to pass a budget amounting to \$1.3 billion to the Medical Department of the VA for fiscal year 1990. It is needed.

I visited hospitals in Illinois and across our country, and veterans all across our country need medical help. But what about next year and the year after? Will we once again have the doors being closed to veterans of this nation? Will we burn veterans of this nation for problems they did not cause?

We cannot allow the veterans to be turned away from VA medical facilities. We can't allow shortages of equipment and personnel to short-change the contributions that veterans have made. No doors should ever be closed to the veterans of this country. You cannot balance the budget on the backs of those that have given us so much.

You hear a lot of talk about budgets and purposes. I believe we should be talking about honoring obligations. None of you saw the way out of your service, none of you questioned your orders. Our country should not now look for an escape hatch to avoid its obligations to those who have served us so well.

It is true that veteran's needs are changing. In some cases, it requires a new emphasis on different needs. But we have an obligation to respond to those challenges rather than to obey themselves. Cooper does have an obligation to address the problems you are facing.

As Chairman of the Oversight Investigation Subcommittee, I recently held a hearing on the problems faced by aging veterans. One proposal made at the hearing, which we are following up on, is a

long-term facility that could reduce cost while providing high quality care for veterans. We have to take a close look at that proposal.

We must take a look at creating legislation providing extended care for veterans to make sure that we adequately provide for the needs in their golden years. I don't believe that veterans should be tarred and feathered for asking for that kind of help.

I resent those that say they were just another special interest. It is in the interest of this country that we repay you for your sacrifices. What we are currently providing veterans is just a small price that we pay the veterans that have given to their country. Whatever the cost, I think we have a moral and legal obligation to help those who served our country.

Finally, I would like to touch on two issues that are of concern to Vietnam-era veterans. One is the standing counseling we currently provide for post-traumatic disorder counseling. Although the problem is identified mostly with Vietnam-era veterans, it is not confined to veterans of that era.

For example, one study found that more than 20 percent of veterans diagnosed with P.T.S.D. were World War II veterans. We need better training and additional personnel to meet those needs.

Finally, as many of you know, I recently introduced a comprehensive bill to compensate veterans for disease arising from Agent Orange exposure. It is similar but not identical to what this organization has supported in the past, and it is different from the rules proposed by Secretary Derwinski.

I come here not to lobby for a specific proposal or approach on his, but to ask that we stop the fighting over the methods in science, and begin to focus on the needs of those Agent Orange victims. [Applause.]

As you know, prior to Secretary Derwinski coming on board as Secretary of Veterans Affairs, our government's response to Agent Orange victims has been one of, I believe, foot-dragging. We have spent some \$63 million just to study this problem between the VA and the Center for Disease Control.

I believe it is time to stop fighting over the studies and the methodology and start treating and compensating those people that are suffering from illnesses we say are associated with Agent Orange exposure.

Many veterans continue to face battles here at home. We have to continue to lead the fight to win those struggles. It is good and proper to honor these with memorial parades. I know you will be marching through the streets of Las Vegas tonight. It is good that our society continues to remember the contributions of our veterans.

The only issue, the real issue, is not just remembering, it is how we repay the tribute to those veterans. It is making sure we work for veterans, not just on one day but everyday. Our joint obligation to those who died in the service of our country is a fight to protect veterans who survive those wars.

I think that obligation is best summed up in a letter written by a relative of a deceased veteran, written to him the month of the Vietnam Memorial dedication in Washington, D.C.

That letter said, "The only way I have ever known to pay you back is to live my life as if it mattered, work every day and in every way for what is right."

My friends, working for the rights of veterans of all eras is right, and I look forward to working with you in this next year and years to come to remember the dead and fight like hell for the living. Thank you for your time today.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE HONORABLE EDWARD J. DERWINSKI, SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you very much, Congressman Evans, and thanks for your work on behalf of our country's veterans.

My comrades, you are in for a rare treat by way of what I intend to do the rest of the morning, after we hear from Secretary Derwinski I intend to resume the debate on the M-13, and then call for the Report of the Finance and Internal Organization Committee, and also the Committee on Americanism and Community Activities before we adjourn.

Prior to leaving the hall, you may want to remember that we have important business to conduct and some of it has to be conducted this morning.

Having said that, let me tell you how happy we are to have this next guest. Last March, as your Commander-in-Chief, I accompanied a substantial representation of VFW members to the White House lawn to witness the swearing in of Edward J. Derwinski as the first Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

This event marked the culmination of many years of effort on the part of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. At last there was cabinet status recognition, with the authority and stature commensurate with the vast responsibilities associated with overseeing the administration of the entitlements and benefits due to our nation's 27 million veterans. It was a red letter day for the VFW and for the new Secretary who joins us here today.

Ed Derwinski is a native of Chicago and it was from there that he entered the United States Army as a Private to serve in the Pacific area during World War II. Returning to his roots, he earned a degree from Loyola University and went on to serve in the Illinois General Assembly.

Then, for 24 years, he represented in the Congress what others have termed a "blue-collar" district in Southern Cook County, Illinois. Whatever the characterization of his constituency, then Representative Derwinski knew that veterans' organizations were threaded through the community fabric of his home turf.

Early this year he was quoted by The New York Times as stating that "I'm more comfortable at the VFW in Joliet (Illinois) than at the Cosmos Club in Washington."

Labeled a conservative Republican during the years on the Hill, he nevertheless numbered among his friends many of those across the aisle. Those friendships, combined with his recognition as "An Old Capitol Hill Hand" are expected to serve him well in presenting our interests to the Congress. In addition, The Washington Post

summed up their judgment in an article stating that "few cabinet members will enjoy a closer friendship with President Bush."

In 1982, Redistricting forced a primary run-off against a Republican colleague and close friend which he lost by 2,000 votes; but, he kept the friendship in tact. Since that time, he has held a variety of trouble-shooting assignments in the Department of State until President Bush's telephone call tapping him as Secretary-Designate.

He has achieved a certain notoriety in Washington for the sports coat to which he is partial. Depending upon the observer, these are described as either "colorful" or "oh, my gosh, what is he wearing." I will leave it up to you to make your own judgment today.

Since assuming his post, the Secretary has appeared before us in a variety of these creations. In each instance, he has been accessible, up-front and open. He has clearly stated his intent to work with us, share information with us and has affirmed his intent to be a strong advocate for veterans.

The VFW plans to hold him to that promise. Therefore, it is my pleasure to present to you today a long-time member of the VFW and our first Secretary of Veterans Affairs, The Honorable Edward J. Derwinski.

[Whereupon, the assembly extended a prolonged rising ovation to Secretary Derwinski.]

ADDRESS BY THE HONORABLE EDWARD J. DERWINSKI, SECRETARY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Secretary DERWINSKI. Thank you. Before I get to my official remarks, I would like to reverse the procedure. Larry has been very active in this Convention in awarding people for their great contributions to the VFW. I would like to turn it around on Larry and present him with the Secretary's Award for his great work as Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in the past year.

Since I am the first Secretary, Larry, you are the first Commander of the VFW to receive such an award. So after you get organized in Washington, I hope this will have a place in your office.

Cooper has been giving me lectures for some time on just how I should conduct myself when I arrive at your National Convention. Cooper does have a habit of giving advice, free advice usually, but it consists of advice.

I want you all to know I came to this Convention wideeyed, interested and curious. I want you to know one of these gentlemen in your membership that impressed me the most has been your Chaplain. I could distinctly tell, when I met him, that he was a very, very dedicated Chaplain for you in the VFW.

I was curious because he had such a distinguished manner, and I asked him a few questions and I found out, among other things, that by his normal occupation he is a Minister of the Congregational Church.

That intrigued me and reminded me of an old story, Chaplain, about the Quaker who was running a dairy farm. Being a Quaker, he did things old-fashioned. He milked the cows by hand. Everything was fine on this farm. He was very prosperous, except he had one cow that was extremely difficult.



Whenever he would milk this cow, he would have the bucket properly placed and busy milking that cow, and the cow would periodically kick that milk bucket. The Quaker would patiently reach over and pick up the bucket and put it back under the cow and continue his work.

Finally, one day he lost his temper. The cow kicked the milk bucket again, the Quaker couldn't contain himself any more, he stepped around, stood right in front of that cow and looked him right in the eye, and he said, "Cow, thou knowest I am a Quaker. Thou knowest I will not curse thee. Now, thou knowest I will not strike thee or abuse thee in any way, but thou knowest not if thou kickest this milk bucket one more time I will sell thee to a Congregationalist."

Now, as Larry mentioned in his introduction, one of the things that I tried to do is to open the doors of the VA for the veterans' organization. You are our clients, you are our customers, you are the people we serve.

Unless we have a good relationship with the veterans' organizations, we are not going to have the kind of communication and cooperation that you deserve from the VA. So we have had an open door. We are going to keep it that way.

I am especially appreciative of the support, the advice and the encouragement I have received thus far from Cooper in your Washington office, from Larry in the field. I have run into Larry in two or three of your State Conventions this year.

I should also mention Ray Soden from Illinois, my old National Commander. I am an Illinois man myself. I remember, heck, I was just a kid in high school when Ray was your National Commander and leading the parades.

When President Bush called me and asked me if I would take over the Secretary's Department, the only instructions he gave was to do the best job you can for the veterans. "We have a commitment especially with the veterans now entering into the status of a Department to do the best job we can for them."

There were no instructions on the budget, there were no instructions on limited resources, just the instruction to do the best we could for our veterans. Now, when we became a Department, it didn't make a hell of a lot of difference in the structural sense, because that veteran, who is a patient in the VA Hospital, the day before or the day after we became a Department, didn't see any difference.

Technically, the Department was there. It was there as the old VA. But what changed was the psychology, and that is what we have been trying to do is to take advantage of the psychological change that the cabinet status has given us.

I have a chance to do some of the budget battles on the inside a little more effectively than my predecessors did because they didn't have that cabinet status. It is those intangibles that are as important as anything else.

It also gave us a chance to look at what we inherited. The VA is an excellent institution. I never met a government institution that couldn't be improved. I have never met a government institution in all my years of public service that didn't have layers of fat in bureaucracy that impeded decisionmaking and impeded progress.

So the first decision that I have to make was how do I take this well-intended impressive VA work force, but have it do a better job for our veterans? We have been focusing on eliminating layers of bureaucracy, we have been focusing primarily on the delivery of medical care. When we get our entire team aboard, I hope we will be in a position to do that.

On that subject, let me just cite one of our frustrations. As I speak to you today, myself and my Deputy are the only two VA officials who have been confirmed by the Senate. We have 16 other people in positions of presidential appointments who have yet to be confirmed by the Senate.

It frankly is a handicap. It is a handicap not to have people in their proper places with their legal authority to get the job done. When the Congress returns after Labor Day, it is my hope they will address the backed up presidential appointments.

We, in the VA, feel especially so. We have 16 people sitting there in limbo. Technically, most are aboard as consultants. They don't have the real authority and muscle of their office to get the job done.

I will ask you when you go back home after this Convention, if you have any contact with the members of the Senate, please urge them to put aside whatever political or other factors may have gotten in the way today and get our VA people confirmed. We want to get them aboard to work for you. We are handicapped unless they do.

Now, of those people—by the way, I would like to give you a little information on their backgrounds—I am the only one that is a World War II veteran. We have two people on our management team that are Korean War veterans. We have 13 others who are Vietnam veterans.

I make that point specifically because we have no problems in the VA in the generation gap among veterans. We have 13 talented men and women who served in Vietnam that are going to be the leadership corps of the VA. We think they are going to do a tremendous job.

They have been selected because of their talents and ability they will bring. Now, when I mentioned bureaucracy, we did take one official step to help improve things. There is an organization that is extensively used by the Congress, the GAO. In fact, Congressman Evans would tell you about that in detail if he had time.

The Government Accounting Office is used by Congressmen to investigate problems and malfunctions and mismanagement in the federal government. We have decided we would not wait for anything like that. So, we have entered into a contract with the GAO whereby at our request and at our direction they will be looking at our problems and telling us how to better manage the VA.

We are doing this to get the jump on the situation, to get out ahead and get some things done. In the same spirit, we have been addressing the changes that we feel we have to make in our medical health system. Let me tell you just very personally, it is a great challenge and a great responsibility but also a great honor and, therefore, a thrill to be a member of the President's Cabinet.

That is not all glamour. It is also worry. The thing that worries me more than anything else, that keeps me awake at night when I

sit there and think of what we have to do to improve the medical care that we now have available to our veterans, I think that is our number one challenge.

We have to improve the quality of the medical care. Now, to do so, we can't just wait for dollars. The last year we waited roughly three months for a supplemental appropriation. We really were an innocent victim of what Congress usually calls a Christmas Tree Bill.

It was an impasse between the House and the Senate that I thought might go on forever. In the coming fiscal year, while the House Appropriations Committee has been especially generous to us, we have no idea how the first game will be played out in the Senate, or what the final budget will be.

We don't have the luxury any more of being able to count on the Congress to produce everything that we ask for. We have enough trouble fighting the OMB. Then I have to worry about what finally comes out in the Congress.

So our budget situation will continue to be critical. But to overcome that we have to innovate, we have to make changes and move ahead with improvement. One of the things that we are going to do in the next few months is to eliminate an entire layer of bureaucracy in the VA. Those are the district medical centers.

We calculate that we can save \$12 million in administrative costs by eliminating an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy. By the way, we have agreement with the OMB that any savings that we achieve by means of any reorganization or restructuring will be plowed back directly for medical care.

That is one of the motivations that we have in making this settlement. We have a solution, we think. I understand you are working on the resolution that is a little "iffy", but I would like to tell you what our big issue is and what our big request of Congress will be.

We would like Congress to give us authority to set up a Blue Ribbon Commission to re-evaluate the medical care goals of the VA. In the process, we make an up-front commitment that none of the VA medical centers will be closed. This is absolutely a fact. There is no closing of any VA medical center.

My personal opinion is that in the long run we are going to need additional outpatient clinics, we are going to need additional nursing homes, we are going to need additional, rather than lesser, facilities for veterans. But we have not had in over 25 years any real direction to the VA in the sense of our mission.

Now, in the meantime, our friends in Congress, and we do have many friends in Congress, have the occasional habit of putting in the precise amendment to the bill, adding the ward or wing, or some form of treatment that they want to offer a specific medical center.

The problem with that approach is that it is never new money, it is money that has to be taken out of the original budget. So we get these well-intended but piecemeal directives. They have the practical effect of making it impossible to administer a thoroughly efficient national health program, which is what we are.

So, there are parts in the country where we have VA medical centers that are overflowing with patients and other portions of

the country you will find facilities being unused. The mix is not balanced any more. I think all veterans desire to have equal access to equally good facilities.

We can only do that by having a true national mandate to provide that service to the veterans. What we have asked for and what we want the Congress to do is to give us this Commission that will be staffed entirely by people who are medical experts, and specifically experts in VA medical care and tell us where we should be in 10, 20, 30 years from now.

Just as I came in this morning, you were debating matters, as I understood, from trying to follow the debate, the debate between Vietnam veterans and veterans of other eras. I would like to point out one statistic that hit me hard in that study.

The average age of a World War II veteran is 67. The average age of a Korean veteran is 57. The average age of Vietnam veteran is 42. If we could get a system in place now to effectively serve the aging World War II veteran, it is in place when the Korean War veteran hits that period 10 years later, and it is in place when that Vietnam War veteran comes aboard in that same age level 15 years later.

We want a system to serve all veterans to perpetuity. The key to this Commission, I might say, is the fact when it will be presented to the Congress it would, as I said, have no closing, no closing of any VA medical centers, change in admission and change in perhaps specialized surgery areas, emphasis on nursing homes, more emphasis on outpatient clinics. That is the direction that the medicine is going.

But we also have presented it to Congress on a take-it-or-leave-it basis. If we just present a new plan to Congress, and then with good intentions driven by regional motives, the members pick it apart and then the whole system has been a futility.

That is why we have to have a Commission approved in advance by Congress and they have the final say-so when the package is presented, as a package for national veterans' health care, so we have a system in place serving all veterans effectively in all parts of the country.

Now, in closing, I was tempted to take a little extra time to tell you some stories about Cooper, but you all know Cooper too well, and I think that I will leave that to history.

I would like to tell you last night I was especially impressed when Admiral Crowe addressed your banquet. He really laid it on the line as far as the practicality of issues in foreign affairs is concerned. I especially wish to second the points made by the Admiral when he said the time has not yet come to just lay down our national defense forces and trust the Russians.

There is no real sign of reform yet in the Soviet Union, there is no real sign that people have freedom of speech, freedom of religion and the kind of things that we have enjoyed so long. There is no real sign that the Communists are giving up control of that government.

Until we reach a situation where we have absolute certainty of our position in the world, you and I, as veterans, have to continue to support the young men and women currently serving us in the active military who are on duty all over the world standing up



against the forces who are threatening our freedom. I heartily endorse the message Admiral Crowe gave you last night.

Let me close on this semi-personal thought. There has always been debate as to whether elevation to cabinet level does, in fact, help the veteran. I am inclined to think that history will show it does. In the long run, myself and my successor, will have access to your President that our predecessors didn't have.

We will have an opportunity to work with fellow cabinet members more directly. I can sit down with Secretary Cheney on the sharing of facilities between the VA and the DOD that we launched into and ultimately will be beneficial when the results are received, I believe.

In general, it has given us an elevation, it has given attention to the veterans that veterans really deserve. You also will note these intangibles. I mentioned it this morning, and this is sort of a personal note, I had a call from Washington telling me that the President wants me to travel to Poland next week to visit and meet with the new officials, but more importantly, take part in the commemoration.

They are going to have their 50th Anniversary of the outbreak of World War II. It will be a chance for us to emphasize, first, the role of the veterans in American society, secondly, the support of the United States, the people of the United States, for the new wave of democracy that seems to be developing there.

And it will give us a chance to put our arms around and congratulate the non-Communist leaders that have now emerged in that country. I think it is especially appropriate that the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs represent the United States in that occasion.

It is significant because it is a direct decision by the President to recognize the validity and prestige of the new VA as a Department. So all of you, Cooper, Larry, and all of your Past National Commanders, and all of you who have fought so hard over the years to see that we got the departmental level, I will tell you that the first six months seem to be working well.

I think the impact on Washington is favorable, and in the long run I hope the real impact will be our winning rather than losing budget battles. Most importantly, doing a much, much better job for the veterans who will be using our hospitals for years to come.

Thank you for your attention. God bless you all.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, Mr. Secretary. I will call the Adjutant General to the podium for an announcement, please.

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. Somewhere with the Massachusetts delegation this morning is an annual visitor to this Convention. I would like Tony Stack, the Liaison Officer for the Organization of National Ex-Servicemen and Women of Dublin, Ireland, to please stand and be recognized. [Applause.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, Adjutant General.

At this time I will call back to the podium the Chairman of the Committee on National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual, for the purpose of continuing with the discussion on M-13. I will ask the Chairman to read the By-Law amendment in question for the benefit of the delegates in attendance.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL BY-LAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE  
AND RITUAL—CONTINUED

Past Commander-in-Chief STANG. Thank you, Commander-in-Chief.

Section 101, this is M-13, proposed by the Department of Connecticut—Eligibility.

Amend Section 101, Manual of Procedure, by adding at the end of the section a new Eligibility category which reads as follows: "National Defense Service Medal, 30 consecutive days or 60 days not consecutive duty outside continental limits of the United States, 27 June, 1950, through 27 July, 1954, and 1 January, 1961, through 15 August, 1974."

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The recommendation of the committee was that we reject M-13. It was set aside at the request of the delegates. The motion was put on the floor that we adopt M-13. That is where we stand at this moment. The floor is now open for further discussion on the motion.

I will recognize Microphone No. 1.

Past Commander-in-Chief JOHN WASYLIK. Commander-in-Chief, I am John Wasylik, Past Commander-in-Chief and Quartermaster, Post 2529, Sandusky, Ohio.

I rise to speak against the motion to adopt M-13. I have heard the comments by my good fellow comrades and I know they are sincere. But let me say that our problem is not the fact that we have aging veterans, but the fact that we do not sign up the veterans who are eligible.

I have had the privilege in my Post this year of seeing a young Vietnam Commander become an All-American Post Commander through the help of his comrades in signing up 160 new and reinstated members, the majority of which were World War II and Korean veterans and, of course, a good number of Vietnam veterans.

We need to maintain our image as Veterans of Foreign Wars and adopting M-13 would dilute that. So I speak against the motion and I move the previous question.

Comrade GENE MANFREY (Post 6827—Florida). I would like to second that motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The question is to move the previous question. All in favor will say "aye"; all opposed "no".

Comrade DEWAIN WEST (Post 2874—Wisconsin). I rise to a point of order.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. State your point of order, please.

Comrade DEWAIN WEST (Post 2874—Wisconsin). Commander-in-Chief, I am Dewain West, Post 2874, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I rise for a point of order. A comrade cannot speak on the question and then call for the question. He has to call for the question before he speaks. He was out of order.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. I would entertain such a point of order because of people standing at the microphone. Comrade, I didn't see you at the microphone to speak on the motion. If that point is raised by someone else waiting at the microphone to speak on the motion, certainly I will consider it.

Comrades, I am not trying to stifle debate on this at all. In fact, we have heard the arguments that many of you have had over the

years. I am perfectly content if what you want to do is to debate and argue this motion all day.

Comrade RONALD RUSAKIEWICZ (Post 9460—Connecticut). Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I speak in favor of this amendment and I hope and pray to God my wife has the premium on my life insurance policy paid.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Ron, prior to doing that, will you rise to the suggestion to the fact that I allowed the man who just spoke on the motion to call for the question? If you will do that for me to help consider the action.

Comrade RONALD RUSAKIEWICZ (Post 9460—Connecticut). Yes, I would. I do.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Your point of order is well taken and the action previously taken is nullified and I will recognize you at Microphone No. 2.

Comrade RONALD RUSAKIEWICZ (Post 9460—Connecticut). Thank you, Comrade Commander-in-Chief. First of all, I would really like to thank Cooper Holt and Mr. Derwinski. If you listened to the words of their eloquent speeches, their remarks bring credence to the amendment, and I thank them for that.

I think that everybody understood the amendment itself. I think you should give it much more thought and consideration. Like Dominic Romano said, it is going to be considered and it is going to be passed, maybe not at this Convention, but it will be passed some day.

We are now asking for everyone who received the National Defense Service Medal to be eligible to belong to this organization. What we are saying is those people who served in those areas, hot spots in the defense of their country, like you and I did, should have the same opportunity to belong to this organization.

This boggles my mind. Anybody in the military service can get on an airplane tomorrow and they can go to West Berlin, they can stay in the Hilton Hotel overnight, come back here and join the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Excuse me, 30 consecutive days service. I beg your pardon on that.

The fact is all they need to do is to be in Berlin, period, but of all the forces in Germany, not one can join this organization. How about those gentlemen who are defending freedom on the DNZ, those in Korea, they are not eligible for this organization. I think that is a shame.

Should we disown these people? You know, in 1941, on December 7th, I was three years and three days old. This "ain't" easy, guys. I was three years and three days old on December 7th, 1941, when we had Pearl Harbor. I wasn't there. But the battle for Hawaii and Pearl Harbor went on until March 2, 1946, but the last bombs and the only bombs were dropped on December 7th, 1941.

As you know, everybody that received that medal in the next four years earned it, because they were standing up for the United States of America, its citizens, and defending this country, this great country of ours, that all of us have done.

I believe that anyone who went anywhere and served in a hot spot and put their life on the line, whether or not they got shot at or whether or not they actually picked up a 50-caliber machine gun and shot at someone, deserves the same opportunity as we have.

If we were to dramatically ask everybody in this room to stand up, and then one-by-one call the roll of Vietnam veterans, Korean veterans and the rest of them who served in conflicts to please sit down, we would have World War I and World War II standing and that would be your Veterans of Foreign Wars.

We started as the Veterans of Foreign Service, and if I am not incorrect in my date, it wasn't until 1947 that we actually became the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I could be wrong on that date. What was the date? It is immaterial, comrades.

What I am trying to say is that we started off as a Veterans of Foreign Service and we are not saying we should go back to that, but, by God, I think we ought to give everybody in the hot spots that defend our freedom an opportunity to share this organization with us and work for the veterans' benefits from here until eternity. Thank you very much.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, Ron. Are there any others at the microphones standing to speak in favor of M-13? I recognize Microphone No. 3. There are none. Microphone No. 2, please.

Comrade EDWARD MORAN (Post 7447—Delaware). Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I am Edward Moran, Senior Vice Commander of the Department of Delaware. My sentiments, comrades, are entirely with our good comrade from the Department of Connecticut.

We have comrades that serve with the United States Navy. They patrolled the Mediterranean. They received an occupational letter. They are eligible to join the Veterans of Foreign Wars. If you spent 30 days in Berlin, you are eligible to belong to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

But what about our comrades that are serving on the DMZ line in Korea? They are not eligible. Why? They should be eligible, comrades, and we are losing a lot of good members by not accepting these veterans that have served in Korea. Thank you, comrades.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The Chair will entertain a motion to move the previous question. Anyone else in support of M-13? All those standing at the microphone are rising to speak in opposition, is that correct?

The Chair recognizes Microphone No. 1.

Comrade WILLIAM COSTELLO (Post 641—South Carolina). Commander-in-Chief, I am William J. Costello, Post 641, Department of South Carolina. I am privileged to be known as the oldest sergeant major on active duty today. I am 59 and one-half years old, and I must retire next year.

I have served my country for 34 years. I am very proud of it. I have received three National Defense Service Medals. The National Defense Medal under AR670-1 is given during these periods of active military service only one day. That is the criteria for receiving this medal.

It simply denotes the fact that you did serve during this critical period. It does not have anything to do with overseas service. It does not have anything to do with combat. It has to do with, yes, I served my one day during this time.

I am insulted that a comrade in the Veterans of Foreign Wars would try to bring into membership a medal that has no distinction for overseas or combat training. The Department of Defense has



taken into account those soldiers on the DMZ. Up until 1974, they were entitled to the Army of Occupational Medal which entitled them to membership in this great organization.

Other awards and decorations are available. The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal is an example. The Department of Defense does not sit idly by and not recognize the deeds of these people or their participation in overseas service. That would be like saying that the Army sort of makes my membership in this organization. That is not true.

That simply means I have committed basic combat military training. The same is for the DMSN. Chief, I am truly insulted that anybody would insult our intelligence and integrity to try to inflict this medal upon us as eligibility for membership in this wonderful, great organization. Thank you.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Microphone No. 2, please.

Comrade JOSEPH MACH (Post 2780—Minnesota). Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I am the State Senior Vice Commander of Minnesota, Post 2780, and the name is Joe Mach. I am rising to discuss, I think, what the problem is here right now.

I support the motion to a point, but the language, I think, is wrong. I will support to a point some of the individuals, these good comrades, that came up here on the eligibility part. I think that is open. The language that we are using there with the National Defense Medal, that should not be in there. You should not be directing or dictating.

We are going to issue this eligibility sometime. Let's hope very shortly. We should not be dictating to them that we want the National Defense Medal. Let them decide to give us an eligibility of what kind of ribbon. That will be up to them.

I, myself, am a Korean veteran. I have served in Korea and Berlin. There are people in this room, I am sure, that were in Europe in 1955, May 5th, Mother's Day, when the cut-off for eligibility was established, except for Berlin. Berlin is still going today.

Now, I believe there is a selfishness between Korea and Vietnam, that eligibility break in there. Again, I say that the National Defense ribbon is not the answer. I received the National Defense ribbon right after I got out of basic training.

My point, comrades, is we have got to attack this in the right way and the right manner. I have stood here for 12 years listening to this. It always comes to the National Defense, and the dictation of ribbons, what we want. Let's get to the membership and forget the ribbon and get the eligibility and the Department of Defense to issue the ribbon.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Microphone No. 3, please.

Comrade FORREST BARKER (Post 1796—Arizona). Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I speak against it. I rose against it several times, every time it has come on the floor. At the end of World War II, and prior to Korea, there were a few of us that had to go to British Honduras. We received the Expeditionary Medal for that.

After Korea, there was a few of us on the Bay of Pigs. We received the Expeditionary Medal. On the Cuban Missile crisis, we received the Expeditionary Medal. Those were all hot spots. We didn't get shot at. In Vietnam, I was there in '64, '65 and '66. On

my first tour, I got the Expeditionary Medal. My second tour, I got the Vietnam Service ribbon.

Prior to British Honduras, I was already eligible for the VFW. I will speak against this every time it comes up on the floor, and I move the question at this time.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Microphone No. 2.

Comrade JACK CARNEY (Post 4643—Florida). I second the motion to move the previous question.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The motion is ruled out of order, because it was made by the man who just finished talking. Is there somebody that has not spoken on the motion that will move the previous question? Are you moving the previous question, Jack?

Comrade GLEN GARDNER (Post 3359—Texas). I will move the question, Commander-in-Chief.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there a second?

Comrade GENE MANFREY (Post 6827—Florida). I will second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The motion has been made and seconded to move the previous question. All in favor will say "aye"; those opposed "no". The "ayes" have it.

All in favor of the motion that we adopt M-13 and accept the ribbon with overseas service as VFW eligibility will say "aye"; all opposed to M-13, say "nay". It was a close vote, but I think the "nays" have it.

Comrades, thank you very much for the way you conducted your debate. That is what we are all about, having a chance to speak out on this kind of issue.

Is there anything further from your committee?

Past Commander-in-Chief STANG. There is not, Commander-in-Chief. At this time, we ask that the committee be discharged.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The committee is discharged, Mr. Chairman.

At this time I call for the report of the Committee on Finance and Internal Organization, and the Chairman of that committee is Past Commander-in-Chief Ted C. Connell.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

Past Commander-in-Chief CONNELL. To our leaders on the podium, to our fellow delegates in the audience, your committee met at 2:00 p.m. yesterday in Pavilion 10 with 171 members present, 1 excused and 20 absent.

I would like to recognize my Vice-Chairman, Past Commander-in-Chief Ray Gallagher.

I will read the recommendations of the Committee on Finance and Internal Organization. If you wish to have a resolution set aside, let us know and will set it aside. At the conclusion of our report, motion will be made to accept the committee's recommendation except for those that have been set aside, which we will then come back to.

We will move directly to Resolution 201 for Prohibit Taxation of Proceeds of VFW Fund Raising Activities. The committee voted to approve.

We will move next to Resolution 202, VFW Accidental Death Insurance. We tabled Resolution No. 202 as the Quartermaster General's Office and the Insurance Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars was working at this time with the insurance company and was not ready for a report. So we tabled this for the future.

No. 203 was rejected. The Quartermaster General and his Department said whenever possible the spirit of the resolution was being conducted at this moment. As we well know, some FAX machines and reproduction equipment is made outside of this country, not in this country. Some items are bought outside of this country and it would make it cost prohibitive, so it is rejected by your committee.

Resolution No. 204 was not necessary since most insurance is in place and you are now being notified on the Post level. So, Resolution 204 was rejected.

No. 205, the National Organization had already moved into partnership with the Service Officer Program with eight Departments, with the option to add other Departments if they would ask. We see no need for Resolution 205. It was rejected.

Resolution No. 206 was combined with Resolution 209, and we shall address it when we reach that.

No. 207 was rejected because in Kansas City, for many years, our building has been known as the VFW Building. We would think it would only confuse the population, the people looking for the building in Kansas City, and more expressly, the Chamber of Commerce. It has been taken into consideration by your National Organization to look for an appropriate room within this building to be named after Joseph M. Stack, Past Commander-in-Chief.

Resolution No. 208 was rejected because it was covered with Resolution 209.

Resolution 209, we favor adoption.

Resolution 210 was rejected because the appointed subcommittee within this committee wanted to study this and bring it to the floor today, and I recognize that subcommittee chairman at one of the microphones on the floor. Go ahead and speak from your microphone.

Comrade WILLIAM RADIGAN (Post 3061—South Dakota). Commander-in-Chief, I am William J. Radigan, Post 3061, South Dakota. I request in conjunction with Resolution 210 that Resolution No. 216 be set aside also for further consideration.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. It is.

Past Commander-in-Chief CONNELL. It is set aside.

No. 211 was rejected because the contract is based on the membership in good standing as defined in our By-Laws, and it is against the By-Laws and rejected by your committee.

Resolution No. 212, please, if I am going too fast for you, make the point known. Resolution No. 212 was rejected because it would duplicate ongoing programs.

No. 213 was rejected because it was not written correctly and the second "Whereas" is in conflict with the first. It was not, in our opinion, or the subcommittee's opinion, well written and it was rejected and sent back to the Department to bring forth at a future time.

No. 214 was rejected because such a directory of all Posts is now being done by Departments and are available to anyone by requesting that Department. In our opinion, there was an actual organization that could keep up with Post directories as well as Departments and, therefore, we wish to reject No. 214.

No. 215 was adopted by your committee. Your subcommittee thought it was an excellent idea and will recommend to this Convention that it approve it, and we adopted it within the committee.

No. 217 was agreed this is contrary to the VFW National By-Laws and was rejected. The Vice-Chairman has made a point. I took for granted that each of you were following me, but I will read the titles so we are on the same track.

No. 218, South Korea Membership Eligibility, again No. 218 was rejected in favor of the Life Resolution, which is 209.

No. 219, New and Reinstate Membership Program, was rejected because the ideal situation would be to provide each of our 10,000 Posts with its own membership vote. In the thinking of your new chair officers, this would be getting in the way of all future programs and not allowing us to set up their own year, so we favor rejection of No. 219.

No. 220, Voluntary Memorial Donations to VFW National Home, we rejected. We could not by resolution specify the kind of program that might plan to increase membership. We recommend rejection.

No. 221, Initiate a VFW Cancer Insurance and Grant Program, was rejected because a Cancer Grant Program similar to the Ladies Auxiliary would require a per capita tax assessment, and we didn't feel like these comrades were ready for a per capita tax increase. It was rejected.

No. 222, Provide National Liability Insurance for VFW Posts, was rejected because the National Organization has already announced a plan to help the Posts obtain the insurance and in place.

Resolution No. 223, Rename the VFW Congressional Award the "Cooper T. Holt VFW Congressional Award."

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. I recognize Past Commander-in-Chief Wasyluk.

Past Commander-in-Chief JOHN WASYLIK (Post 2529—Ohio). I request that Resolution 223 be set aside.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Resolution No. 223 is set aside.

Past Commander-in-Chief CONNELL. Resolution No. 224, Political Endorsements, politics and actions are covered under our National By-Laws and, therefore, No. 224 was rejected.

No. 225, Military Personnel Stationed in the Republic of Korea, was covered by Resolution No. 209 and, therefore, No. 225 was rejected.

Resolution No. 226, Adopt a Veteran.

Comrade RAY MULLIN (Post 7284—Pennsylvania). Mr. Chairman, Ray Mullin, Past Department Commander of the Department of Pennsylvania, Post 7284, requests that Resolution No. 226 be set aside.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrade, we can do that, but why don't we wait until the Chairman finishes his report and then I will call for those to be set aside. No. 226 is set aside.

Past Commander-in-Chief CONNELL. Resolution No. 227, Urge Public Support for all POW/MIA's. The resolution was rejected be-



cause the last "Be It Resolved" paragraph is not clearly written. We do not understand the resolution and, therefore, it was rejected to go back to the Department for rewriting.

Resolution No. 228, we recommend rejection because the intent of this resolution is commendable but asking for contributions to an outside organization would not be in compliance with our By-Laws. Therefore, the committee rejected 228.

No. 229 was covered by No. 209 and, therefore, we recommend rejection.

No. 230, Review Installation Ceremony in VFW Ritual. This resolution was not in proper form for an amendment to the Ritual. Inasmuch as we do not have a standing National By-Laws Study Committee, it could not be implemented. We recommend rejection.

Comrade Commander, that leaves 210, 223 and 226. I would like to make a motion that the committee report on all except these three be adopted.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there other requests to set aside?

Comrade WILLIAM RADIGAN (Post 3061—South Dakota). I ask Resolution 216 also be set aside.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. No. 216 is set aside.

Seeing no others, there is a motion on the floor, with the exception of Resolutions 210, 216, 223 and 226, which have been set aside, that the action of the committee be adopted. Is there a second to the motion?

Comrade CARL GIELTO (Post 1645—Massachusetts). I second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The motion has been moved and seconded that with the exception of the resolutions I have previously read, the recommendation of the committee be adopted. Is there any discussion? Hearing no discussion, all in favor will say "aye"; all opposed. The motion carried.

We will now consider No. 210. Why don't you read the gist of 210 so the delegates will know what we are talking about.

Past Commander-in-Chief CONNELL. Resolution No. 210 would recognize the VFW National Fire Fighter and the VFW National Emergency Technician of the Year in National Awards.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there a motion that we adopt Resolution No. 210.

Comrade RICH FITZGERALD (Post 7721—Florida). I move we adopt No. 210.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion on the floor that we adopt Resolution No. 210. Is there a second to that motion?

Comrade ERNIE KYZER (Post 4548—Arkansas). I second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion and a second that we adopt Resolution No. 210. Is there any discussion on that motion?

Microphone No. 2, please.

Comrade RICH FITZGERALD (Post 7721—Florida). As the maker of the resolution, the VFW recognize annually through the J. Edgar Hoover Award the Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and through community activity programs at the grass roots level they propose we should go out and find the distinguished law

enforcement officer of our community, along with the distinguished fire fighter of our community, and also the distinguished emergency medical technician of our community and recognize them with a community service award from the VFW.

However, it ceases there. The program comes from National. They tell us to do it and receive credit for our community activities, but National only recognizes the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

I suggest that the resolution I submitted to this Convention would wholeheartedly support the National program at the local level and bring it to the Convention by recognizing the Fire Fighter and the Emergency Technician of the Year on a National level as well as the Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Thank you, Commander.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. I would ask the Chairman of the Committee to tell us the committee's thinking regarding Resolution No. 210. Mr. Chairman.

Past Commander-in-Chief CONNELL. Thank you, Commander-in-Chief. We appointed a subcommittee within the committee to study this resolution and report back. There is someone at one of the microphones on the floor ready to report. If you will recognize that microphone over there, the subcommittee will report on that.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Chair recognizes Microphone No. 3.

Comrade WILLIAM RADIGAN (Post 3061—South Dakota). During the meeting yesterday, it was brought to our attention that the National Safety Committee has discussed this very topic and their recommendation was that we adopt Resolution 216 rather than 210 due to the fact that Resolution No. 216 only includes Fire Fighters.

It was felt that we would adopt that resolution and recognize fire fighters this year and see how the program goes, how much activity is generated by us. Perhaps it would be appropriate to come back a year from now with an emergency medical technician award.

It was brought to our attention that many fire fighters are emergency medical technicians and due to that fact you could have a situation where you are recognizing an individual for two different things that he simultaneously performs.

Commander-in-Chief, I am not speaking against this resolution, I am only reporting to you it appears that the National Safety Committee and members of our committee yesterday on Finance and Internal Organization felt that perhaps it would be better to adopt Resolution 216.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, Bill.

The Chair recognizes the comrade at Microphone No. 3.

Comrade FRANK HEDEMAN (Post 2828—California). I am not only from California, but I am also from two other great states, Iowa and Minnesota. When I was a youngster, 15 years ago, I made parachute jumps with the 101st Airborne. I fought forest fires when I was 15 years old. That is something to remember, comrades. They do deserve recognition. Thank you.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there any further discussion?

We will recognize the comrade at Microphone No. 1.

Comrade CHARLIE KINNEY (Post 1439—New Jersey). As a one-time member of the National Awards Committee, I want to speak not in opposition to the motion, because as a former police officer I can hardly speak in any way against my good comrades who fought fires alongside me for many years.

I do want to bring to the attention of the delegates, and I am using the floor of this Convention for that purpose, the problem in passing motions on the National floor is one thing and getting the cooperation of the Departments to participate in the program is another thing.

The J. Edgar Hoover Award for the Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer, we meet, we plead, we start with the National Convention, we promulgate the rules and regulations and over many years we have approximately 20 Departments participating in this contest each year.

Approximately 30 Departments never submit a candidate for the J. Edgar Hoover Award. So here we go. We are thinking in terms of a new award for a fire fighter. That is great. How many Departments are going to take it from here and go back to their Department and nominate a candidate for that award next year?

There is no award whatsoever on a National basis if we don't participate. I am not in opposition to this motion, but I assure you that it needs far more cooperation than the J. Edgar Hoover Award has been getting for the past 15 years. Thank you.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, Charlie. I think that is the crux of the debate. Is there any further discussion on Resolution 210?

Microphone No. 2, please.

Comrade RICH FITZGERALD (Post 7721—Florida). I am the one that made the resolution and submitted it through Florida. This National program should be successful. We must break it down to the grass roots to support these National programs.

We direct them from that level, we go out and promote these things and get community service activities involved, get credits, yet you are not willing to support it on the National level.

I move the previous question.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there any other discussion on the motion? Hearing no other discussion, those in favor of rejecting the committee's recommendation and adopting Resolution 210, that is those in favor of adoption say "aye"; those opposed say "no". The "nays" have it. The resolution fails.

We will now take up Resolution No. 216 that was set aside.

Comrade WILLIAM RADIGAN (Post 3061—South Dakota). I move adoption of Resolution No. 216.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there a second that we adopt Resolution No. 216? Is there a second to that motion?

Comrade HAROLD ANDERSON (Post 6640—Louisiana). I second the motion that we adopt this resolution.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion on the floor that we adopt Resolution No. 216. Is there any discussion on this motion?

Comrade WILLIAM RADIGAN (Post 3061—South Dakota). I would like to remind this delegation and all my good comrades from New Jersey who spoke relative to the failure of some of us to participate

in the J. Edgar Hoover Award, the very fact that we have it sends a message to this nation that we recognize what the law enforcement people of this nation do for us.

It is my belief that if we will adopt this resolution and recognize an outstanding fire fighter from this nation of ours, it will send a message to the thousands of professional people who fight fires and save lives and property today.

More importantly, it will send a message to the thousands and thousands of volunteer firemen throughout this nation, that we do recognize what they do for us. I hope that we will not reject the resolution because we are afraid someone will not participate.

I would like to urge delegates to this Convention to adopt this resolution and pay their respect to fire fighters of our nation. Thank you.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Microphone No. 2.

Comrade RICH FITZGERALD (Post 7721—Florida). I rise in support of Resolution No. 216. I was unable to get both of them in but I do consider that the fire fighter should be recognized on the National level, and I urge all our comrades to support 216.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, comrade. Is there any other discussion?

Microphone No. 3.

Comrade ED HEGSTAND (Post 4667—South Dakota). Comrade Commander-in-Chief, Ed Hegstand, Post 4667, South Dakota. In speaking in reference to not getting a lot of participation in the J. Edgar Hoover Award, a lot of our rural areas that are small, we don't have a lot of crime or something that the law enforcement people can get awarded for.

Out in the country, we have great fire fighters who risk their lives and we have fire fighters all over the country regardless of size. I think that it is very important that we adopt this.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, comrades. Is there any further discussion? If there is no further discussion, all in favor of Resolution No. 216 captioned "Establish a VFW National Award for the Nation's Outstanding Fire Fighter" will let it be known, all those in favor, by saying "aye"; those opposed say "no". The "ayes" have it. Resolution No. 216 is adopted.

We will now call for appropriate action on Resolution No. 223. Is there a motion that we adopt Resolution No. 223?

Past Commander-in-Chief JOHN WASYLIK (Post 2529—Ohio). I move adoption of Resolution No. 223.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion that we adopt Resolution No. 223. Is there a second to that motion?

Past Commander-in-Chief COOPER HOLT (Post 1289—Tennessee). Comrade Commander, Cooper Holt, Post 1289, Chattanooga, Tennessee. I rise to second the motion. I would like to make comments in regards to the seconding of this motion.

I do want the delegates at this Convention to know before the rumors get around that I, Cooper Holt, was asking for something which was defeated in committee. That is not so, my friends. It has never been so. It will never be so.

The recognition that I have received from this organization over the past years is recognition enough for me. When I announced my retirement at the Dixie Banquet last year, the Editor of our VFW



newspaper in Tennessee was kind enough to write a very nice editorial, and he ended up the editorial suggesting that the VFW Congressional Award be renamed the Cooper T. Holt Congressional Award.

I did not ask him to do this, I did not ask anyone in Tennessee to support it. I did not ask anyone in the Southern Conference, who adopted this resolution, to support it. I did not ask any committee member to support this. There is not a person on this floor that can rise and say that I asked them to support this.

As I have indicated, my friends, I do not need any further recognition. You have given me enough over the years. Just working for the VFW is enough. I have had recognition from the President of the United States, from the House Veterans Affairs Committee, from the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, from the Fleet Reserve Association.

I received the Commander-in-Chief's Gold Medal Award this morning. I will receive an award tomorrow from the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. It just doesn't seem to stop. I know these people are not paying homage to Cooper Holt, they are paying homage to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

I know that I have not pleased everybody in my work; I didn't really try to. I wanted to, but I want to make it clear that Cooper Holt is not asking and never will ask that anything be named after him in any way, shape, form or fashion.

Commander-in-Chief, that is the reason that I rise to second the motion. I think that the Finance and Internal Committee headed by my good friend Ted Connell and by Ray Gallagher did the right thing. I think the members of the committee did the right thing.

When future recognition comes from Past Commanders-in-Chief, if they are deserving, you can be damn sure Cooper Holt will be the first one on the floor giving them the recognition that they deserve. Thank you kindly.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion that has been properly seconded that we adopt Resolution No. 223. Is there any discussion?

Microphone No. 1, please.

Comrade JIM NEWMAN (Post 4876—Oklahoma). I rise to support this resolution. As all of us know, Comrade Cooper T. Holt has supported this organization, and as a young Vietnam veteran, I accepted it. He has inspired myself and many others to go forward to seek higher offices because of what Cooper T. Holt stands for.

It is my privilege today to get up and say that I am proud to know the man and I support this resolution. Thank you, Chief.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, comrade.

Microphone No. 2.

Past Commander-in-Chief H. R. RAINWATER (Post 8223—California). I rise in opposition to this motion for the following reasons. As you know, the Veterans of Foreign Wars is recognized throughout the country as having the only Political Action Committee on the Hill, and we have been involved in endorsing Congressmen and Senators for all these years since they were organized, and our Congressional Award up that is presented to the Congressmen and Senators has become coveted.

I would not like to see its importance diluted by attaching someone's name to it, whether it is my name, yours or anyone else's. I think that Cooper was correct when he stated that he had received many, many awards and will receive many, many more in the future.

I rise to be one of those who suggest a special award be designed for Cooper Holt, and I will be the first to speak for it. But I don't think we should dilute the importance of the Congressional Award by having a living person's name on it. That should not happen. Therefore, I respectfully request our comrades reject this resolution. Thank you.

Past Commander-in-Chief RAY GALLAGHER (Post 2755—North Dakota). Commander-in-Chief, everyone in this room holds Cooper Holt in the highest esteem. We have one resolution that I don't believe was identified, No. 207, which was to rename the VFW National Headquarters Building in honor of Past Commander-in-Chief Joseph M. Stack.

The committee rejected that. They rejected it for some of the same things we are saying here. We had some very, very outstanding people that have served the organization for many years. For example, Bob Handy or Omar Ketchum, Past Executive Director of the Washington Office who was recognized as author of the G.I. Bill.

We can name Julian Dickerson, a man that served this organization many years and did a tremendous job. We look to Al Cheatham, who made this organization what it is. We can name T. C. Selman, who died in office and, in effect, gave his life for us.

It is a vast procedure to naming awards after our own people. I rise for that point only. The committee rejected it because it set a bad precedent for the future. In a few years someone may come along and want to change the award again. This is the Veterans of Foreign Wars, which we are all proud to be members of.

The VFW Congressional Award should remain that way. The same can be said for the VFW Building in Kansas City. You see VFW in big neon lights atop the building, and it is identifiable with us as a whole and not any one individual.

We have had many people who have served this organization and, my comrades, we would have similar arguments in the future if we start naming buildings after those that have served. I respectfully request you defeat this resolution.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Microphone No. 1.

Past Commander-in-Chief RAY SODEN. Thank you, Commander. I am Ray Soden, Past Commander-in-Chief. I want to speak in opposition to the motion to adopt. Having served on the committee, we looked at all aspects of this.

I don't think there was a comrade on the committee or a comrade in this convention hall that had anything but praise for Cooper T. Holt. As a colleague of mine, he was the best Commander-in-Chief and has been a great Director of our Washington office.

There is no doubt in anybody's mind of the outstanding job he has done. But this is a very, very important award because of the connotation its donor and name "Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States" carries. The previous recipients know what it is, and I cannot envision changing that.

So I would ask you to defeat the motion to adopt, and accept the committee's recommendation to reject. Thank you very much.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Microphone No. 2, please.

Past Commander-in-Chief JOHN WASYLIK (Post 2526—Ohio). I want to clarify one point to the delegates here. Cooper Holt asked me to have this set aside only because he wanted to explain to all of you that he did not ask for this award and had no input into it being a resolution.

I took the Commander's lead when he asked for a motion, because I felt in my heart that the resolution should pass. I have watched this man's performance for the past several years. As Cooper will tell you, we have had our share of disagreements, but we have remained friends because I respect the job that Cooper Holt has done for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and veterans in the halls of Congress.

I have heard a lot of names mentioned here today and they all have been outstanding administrators. There is nothing against any of them. But the man who epitomizes what we have accomplished in the halls of Congress is Cooper T. Holt.

When they tell me if we name this award the Cooper T. Holt Congressional Award it will not be a VFW award, then I can only ask you what the Dwight D. Eisenhower Award that we gave last night is? It was still a VFW award. I am sure General Crowe accepted that with a great deal of pride as he did last night.

So I feel that honoring a man who has not only spent every day of the last 28 years in the halls of Congress fighting for us, but three-quarters of every weekend of every year out there working for the welfare of veterans is worthy of this award. I urge you to vote for the resolution.

Past Commander-in-Chief COOPER HOLT (Post 1289—Tennessee). Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I don't know what else I can do. I seconded the motion to uphold the committee's recommendation. I don't like to put these Past Chiefs on the spot, I have fought with them and against them for all these years.

Ray Gallagher implied I am the only one that has ever done anything for the VFW. He is full of crap. I know that and I will say that if it is necessary to clear this thing so that there will be no misunderstanding on anybody's part, I ask the delegates to vote against this resolution. Now, can I make it any clearer than that?

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you.

Comrade ED SEWELL (Post 6240—Kansas). As a member of the National Awards and Citation Committee, I do want to tell you we fought about this a time or two and it is time for us to call for the question.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion on the floor to call for the question. Do I hear a second?

Comrade C. W. MERRINKENS (Post 706—Florida). I second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. You have heard the motion. All in favor of the motion will say "aye"; those opposed "no". The motion carries. Now, all in favor of accepting Resolution 223, say "aye"; those opposed say "no". The resolution fails.

We will now go to Resolution No. 226. Is there a motion to adopt Resolution No. 226?

Comrade CHARLES FELTENBERGER (Post 2435—Pennsylvania). Commander-in-Chief, I am Charles Feltenberger, Post 2435, Commander of the Department of Pennsylvania. I move adoption of this resolution.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There has been a motion made to adopt Resolution No. 226. Is there a second?

Comrade FRANK FISHER (Post 4789—Pennsylvania). I second it.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion and a second on the floor that we adopt Resolution No. 226. Mr. Chairman, will you tell the delegates the gist of that resolution, please?

Past Commander-in-Chief CONNELL. Commander-in-Chief, the resolution is a very short one. I would like to say it is to Adopt a Veteran. The resolved part reads,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that each Post of the VFW be encouraged to institute a program which will be called "Adopt a Veteran" to provide a measure of companionship and brotherly comfort to such veterans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such a program become part of the National VFW Policy to serve the veterans of America's wars and conflicts and that the appropriate procedures and instructions be promulgated to that effect.

We ask that you reject this resolution for the following reasons: the resolution certainly had merit. But, as I said before, we would recommend approval with deletion of the last "Be It Resolved" paragraph because it is not clear. It wasn't clear to the committee, and is not clear to me at this moment what that paragraph stands for as it is written.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there any discussion?

I would like to go to Microphone No. 2.

Comrade RAY MULLIN (Post 7294—Pennsylvania). Mr. Chairman, the committee decided to reject this because it was poorly written. It was sound in principle, however, and I have rewritten the resolution and I would like to read it. It is short.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Are you offering an amendment to the resolution?

Comrade RAY MULLIN (Post 7294—Pennsylvania). I am rewriting it in a form that I would ask it be rewritten in, so it would be clear and understandable.

WHEREAS, there is an ever-increasing number of aging veterans living alone, either at home or in nursing homes or veterans medical centers; and

WHEREAS, many of those veterans are without the support and comfort of family or close friends; and

WHEREAS, those veterans have faithfully served their country in time of need and now deserve the companionship and brotherhood of all veterans; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that each Post of the VFW be encouraged to institute a program which will be called "Adopt a Veteran" to provide a measure of comradeship and comfort to such veterans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the "Adopt a Veteran" program become a part of the National VFW Community Activities program to serve such lonely veterans.

This has been submitted by the Department of Pennsylvania. Thank you.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is that a substitute resolution or is that an amendment to Resolution No. 226? How is that being offered?



Comrade RAY MULLIN (Post 7294—Pennsylvania). That is a substitute resolution.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. We can call that 226-A, the substitute resolution for Resolution 226. Is that correct?

Comrade RAY MULLIN (Post 7294—Pennsylvania). Yes, sir.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Do you move that we substitute Resolution 226-A for Resolution 226?

Comrade RAY MULLIN (Post 7294—Pennsylvania). I so move.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there a second?

Past Commander-in-Chief CONNELL. The Chairman would like to second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion and a second that we substitute Resolution 226-A for Resolution No. 226. Is there any discussion? All in favor of substituting Resolution 226-A for 226, and adopting 226-A, let it be known by saying "aye"; those opposed say "no". The "ayes" have it. Resolution 226-A is adopted.

Mr. Chairman, is there anything further from your committee to come before the body?

Past Commander-in-Chief CONNELL. There is not and that finishes our business, and we ask that we be discharged.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you for a job well done. You are discharged.

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. In this delegation, and I hope he is still present so we can recognize him properly, is Louis Milligan, and he is a member of Post 2012 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He is a Captain of the United States Army Retired and is a Medal of Honor recipient, having served in Company E, 27th Infantry Regiment, in the vicinity of Korea, on 2-7-51, and as a result of his heroism was the recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

I would ask that Comrade Milligan stand for proper recognition of this body. Thank you, sir, for being here with us this morning. [Applause.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you.

Comrades, at this time we will call for the report of the Committee on Americanism and Community Activities. We will call on the Chairman, Past Commander-in-Chief Arthur Fellwock, to present the report.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AMERICANISM AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Past Commander-in-Chief ARTHUR FELLWOCK. Thank you, Commander-in-Chief. The Committee on Americanism and Community Activities had a very able Vice-Chairman in Earl Stock, Past Commander-in-Chief.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrades, can I have your attention. We are winding down the business of the day. We have some important resolutions to discuss. So, please, take your seats and keep the noise to a minimum. Thank you.

Past Commander-in-Chief FELLWOCK. The resolutions that we shall consider, I will present to you in three groups. The first group that I will present will be those that the committee approved. Now, again, if you want any of those set aside, stand up and request that one of them be set aside after I announce all of the resolutions that the committee has approved.

The second group will consist of the resolutions that the committee has rejected. If anyone wants any of these resolutions set aside, the same procedure will be followed.

I have a third group, which has to do with the desecration of the American Flag. As you know, we had several resolutions regarding desecration of our flag. We have grouped all of these together into one resolution.

We took the best part out of all these resolutions and came up with one resolution which I will read to you in its entirety because it will be in lieu of all of the other resolutions that were submitted.

I will start out by reading those resolutions the committee approved.

Resolution No. 101, Support and Promote Voice of Democracy.

Resolution No. 102, Cooperation With National and State Organizations To Promote Youth, Safety and Patriotic Programs.

Resolution No. 103, Oppose Any Action To Change Our National Anthem.

No. 104, Mandate English as the Official Language of the United States.

No. 105, approved as amended, Concerning Memorial Day. In the third "Whereas", the following states, Georgia, Maryland and South Dakota have been deleted because these states have changed Memorial Day to May 30th, the last Monday of the month; therefore, these states have been deleted.

Resolution No. 107, Community Service Credit for Posts Sponsoring Dads of Foreign Service Veterans.

Resolution No. 111, Restore Memorial Day to May 30th.

No. 126, Boycott Any Movie or TV Attempt To Promote Financial Gain From Court's Decision on Flag Burning.

Resolution No. 128, approved as amended. The amended part is the second sentence in the last "Whereas," where it says "to the exclusion of traditional Christian moral values." We recommend that sentence now read "to the exclusion of traditional Judo Christian moral values" and then we have deleted entirely the "Be It Resolved" and have come up with a new "Be It Resolved" section, which will now read as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Department of Education of the United States to initiate and implement programs of patriotic education to include studies from historic documents of our nation in its discussions of government.

Resolution No. 134, approved, Dads of Foreign Service.

No. 140, approved, Oppose Constitutional Convention That Would Change Our Constitution.

Does anyone want any of the aforementioned resolutions, which the committee has approved, set aside? I move that we adopt Resolutions 101, 102, 103, 104, 105 as amended, 106, 107, 111, 125, 128 as amended, 134 and 140.

Comrade PETER PUENTES (Post 10209—Florida). Comrade Commander-in-Chief, Pete Puentes, Department Commander of Florida, seconds the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you. There is a motion and a second that the resolutions read to you by the Chairman of the committee be adopted. Is there any discussion? Hearing no discussion, all in favor of adopting will say "aye"; all opposed "no". The "ayes" have it. It is so ordered.

Past Commander-in-Chief FELLWOCK. I will now read the resolutions that the committee rejected.

Resolution No. 117, Modify National Voice of Democracy Program To Include Ninth Grade Students.

Resolution No. 122, Amend Sons of the VFW Rules.

Resolution No. 127, VFW National Headquarters Print-Out To Include the POW/MIA Awareness Program.

Resolution No. 132, Water Safety.

Resolution No. 135, Encourage the Lighting of the U.S. Flag on Federal Buildings and Installations.

No. 136, Establish a Uniform Reporting Period for National Programs.

No. 137, VA Hospital Program.

Resolution No. 144, Eliminate the Use of Reel-to-Reel Tapes in the National Voice of Democracy Contest.

I will read again to you the resolutions that the committee voted to reject: 117, 122, 127, 132, 135, 136, 137 and 144. Does anyone wish to have any of these set aside? Hearing none, I will make a motion that we reject Resolutions Nos. 117, 122, 127, 132, 135, 136, 137 and 144.

Comrade PETER PUENTES (Post 10209—Florida). The Department of Florida seconds the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. You have heard the recommendation of the committee to reject the resolutions. There has been a second. Is there any discussion on the motion?

Comrade LARRY SCHELL (Post 3990—Texas). Commander-in-Chief, I would like to set aside Resolution No. 135.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. We have set aside Resolution 135. Hearing no further discussion, all those in favor of the motion, let it be known by saying "aye"; all opposed by "no". The "ayes" have it. It is so ordered and we will bring back No. 135 when appropriate.

Past Commander-in-Chief FELLWOCK. Let's pick up 135 right now. It is entitled "Encourage the Lighting of U.S. Flags on Federal Buildings and Federal Installations." I will read the "Be It Resolved" to you.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we favor the lighting of all U.S. Flags on federal buildings and federal installations.

The committee discussed this and turned it down because it is really superfluous because we already have a federal law concerning that. The federal law is Section 2, Paragraph (B) of Public Law 94-344. So it is superfluous because we already have a law that governs just that thing.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there a motion on the floor that pertains to Resolution No. 135?

Comrade H. R. FITZGERALD (Department of Virginia). Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I am H. R. Fitzgerald, from the Department of Virginia. We realize the law that you just mentioned exists, but in the State of Virginia and Washington, D.C., the flags are taken down at night. They are not left flying.

In other words, we want those flags to fly 24 hours a day and we want lights on them. We don't want the flags taken down at 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon. We want them to fly 24 hours a day. Thank you.

Comrade WILLIAM COSTELLO (Post 641—South Carolina). Comrade Commander-in-Chief, Bill Costello, Post 641, South Carolina, and also a member of the committee. The wording in the resolution wanted installations to have their flags flying at all times at military installations.

I don't know how many of you comrades have ever stood and watched the ceremony of taking the flag down. I would hate to see that tradition changed. It is a time-honored tradition in the military that we respect the flag and put it to rest at the evening hour

to show our respect for what it has been through, not only flying on a military installation but what it represents in combat situations.

Let our flag rest at night and let us continue to have that tradition of retreat and reverie. Thank you.

Comrade LARRY SCHELL (Post 3990—Texas). I respect what the comrade just said. I have worked for a multi-billion dollar corporation who does take their flag up and down every day. If a cloud comes over the sun, they take the flag down.

Several of us, where I work, have gone to our Plant Director and asked him if the flag can be flown, because we are proud of it. We are proud of what it stands for. We would like to see it flying. I personally presented a check to him because the company said they couldn't afford to pay for it, which was rejected.

I see this as a means of encouraging the flag to be flown with a light. I see no harm in lending our support to that encouragement. It would seem to me that it would still be the prerogative of the respective installation to do that if they wish. Thank you, sir.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there any other discussion? I hear no discussion. Are there any motions on the floor?

Past Commander-in-Chief FELLWOCK. I will make a motion that we reject this resolution.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion to reject. Is there a second to that motion?

Comrade GUS MORAN (Department of Florida). I see no reason why we should try to pass a law that dictates to the military installation that they have to take their flag down or put it up. That is the point, and I rise to second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you very much. There is a motion and a second that we accept the recommendation of the committee and reject Resolution 135. Is there any further discussion on that motion? Hearing none, all in favor of accepting the committee's recommendation of rejection, let it be known by saying "aye"; those opposed "no". Resolution No. 135 is rejected.

Past Commander-in-Chief FELLWOCK. We had in our committee 27 resolutions that dealt with desecration of the American Flag. All of them were good. All of them had certain points that were excellent.

So what the committee actually did was combine these resolutions into one. The committee did not recommend rejection of these resolutions because every resolution that pertains to the desecration of our flag is a good resolution and should never be rejected.

In lieu of the following resolutions have written another resolution: 108, 109, 110, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 118, 119, 120, 121, 123, 124, 126, 129, 130, 131, 133, 138, 139, 141, 142, 143, 145, 146 and 147. In lieu of the aforementioned resolutions we offer Resolution No. 148, which reads,

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT TO PROTECT THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

WHEREAS, the Flag of the United States of America has always served as a symbol of our nation's fundamental freedoms and liberties; and



WHEREAS, when our nation's defenders were engaged in combat on foreign soil, the American Flag was the one symbol which served as a constant reminder and link to our nation and home; and

WHEREAS, every member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has served under the Flag of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the Flag of the United States of America represents not only the nation, but also the untold sacrifices made by patriotic Americans throughout the history of our nation; and

WHEREAS, the Flag of the United States of America is a unique national symbol, a monument and national property which our government is charged with protecting from acts of desecration; and

WHEREAS, the Flag of the United States of America is the symbol and expression of the meaning of the democratic principles contained in the Constitution of the United States which has served as the foundation of our democratic society since its founding; and

WHEREAS, the Flag of the United States of America has served as a rallying force of our armed forces in the protection of human rights and the democratic principles of our Constitution during time of war; and

WHEREAS, the Flag of the United States of America is a hallowed symbol of our country's freedom and democracy and a reminder of the unparalleled heritage of our great nation; and

WHEREAS, the people of the United States of America have come to love, honor and respect our Flag as a symbol of the history, virtue and accomplishments of our land; and

WHEREAS, the Flag of the United States of America, the symbol of our unity, inspiration and resolve, is looked upon by the people of the world as a guiding light for hope, freedom, justice and equality; and

WHEREAS, the Flag of the United States of America symbolizes our great nation in peace as well as in war, signifying our national presence on battleships, airplanes, military installations, public buildings and veterans facilities throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the Flag of the United States of America symbolizes the sacrifices made by millions of Americans to preserve and protect life, liberty and justice for all; and

WHEREAS, the Flag of the United States of America is a symbol which protects and guarantees our progress according to our will and abilities; and

WHEREAS, the recent 5-4 United States Supreme Court decision allowing the Flag of the United States of America to be unceremoniously burned or otherwise desecrated as a form of political protest is a gross travesty of justice; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is totally appalled by the decision of the Supreme Court permitting the burning of our Flag as a form of political protest and free speech; and

WHEREAS, the only way that the people of the United States of America can overrule this decision of the Supreme Court is to amend the Constitution of the United States to provide that any desecration of the Flag of the United States of America is a violation of our Constitution; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we ask each United States Senator, each member of the United States House of Representatives and the President of the United States to do everything in their power to initiate and adopt legislation calling for a Constitutional amendment to protect the Flag of the United States of America from desecration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we add our collective voices to the millions of other patriotic citizens and organizations throughout the length and breadth of our land to call upon our representatives in the Congress of the United States and state legislatures to enact legislation providing for a Constitutional amendment to protect the Flag of the United States of America from desecration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge all veterans and their families and dependents to call upon their representatives at every level of government to support initiatives to amend the Constitution of the United States to protect the Flag of the United States of America from desecration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon our Posts, County Councils, Districts and Departments to communicate the support of their membership to their respective representatives in every level of government to insure the adoption of a Constitutional amendment to protect the Flag of the United States of America from desecration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon the Commander-in-Chief and the National Council of Administration of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States through its National Headquarters and Washington Office to make the adoption of a Constitutional amendment to protect the Flag of the United States of America from desecration our number one priority goal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon the membership of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to join in an all out effort through petition drives, lawful demonstrations and letter writing campaigns to achieve this priority legislative goal in the Congress of the United States and the legislative bodies of each of our fifty states to adopt a Constitutional amendment to protect the Flag of the United States of America from desecration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW Political Action Committee make it known that support for a Constitutional amendment to protect the Flag of the United States of America shall be among the requisites for expending monies for the advancement of the purposes of the Veterans of Foreign Wars by political actions in elections to federal office in the United States.

Past Commander-in-Chief FELLWOCK. I make a motion that we approve Resolution No. 148.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion on the floor that we adopt Resolution No. 148. Is there a second?

Comrade ERNIE KYZER (Post 4548—Arkansas). I second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you very much, comrade. There is a motion properly seconded on the floor. You have heard the motion. Is there any discussion on the motion? Hearing no discussion, all in favor of adoption of Resolution 148 will say "aye"; all opposed will say "no". The "ayes" have it. No. 148 is rightfully adopted. A good job, comrades.

Mr. Chairman, is there anything further to come before your committee?

Past Commander-in-Chief FELLWOCK. No.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Having nothing further to come before the body, we will have the closing ceremony.

[Whereupon, National Chaplain Hosmer gave the Closing Prayer, followed by the Salute to the Colors.]

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. The meeting is recessed until tomorrow morning at 9:00 o'clock a.m.

[Whereupon, the session was recessed at 12:45 o'clock p.m.]

## SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

WEDNESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 23, 1989

[The Second Business Session of the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, held in the Barron Room of the Hilton Center, Las Vegas Hilton Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, was called to order at 9:00 o'clock a.m., with Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers, presiding.]

[National Sergeant-at-Arms Sarver led the Convention in the Salute to the Colors and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. National Chaplain Hosmer gave the Opening Prayer from the Ritual.]

### REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. I really appreciate your cooperation yesterday. We had a good program yesterday and we have another good program this morning culminating with a major address from the Secretary of Defense, Dick Cheney, at 11:00 o'clock.

At this time I will call on the Chairman of the Credentials Committee, Richard Trombla, for an updated report. Mr. Chairman.

Comrade RICHARD TROMBLA (Post 1174—Kansas). Before I read my report, I want to remind you even though you picked up your advance registration, be sure and stop by the on-sight registration and have your delegate cards stamped, because if you don't you won't receive credit for the delegate strength in your Post.

I checked on the past 20 years and so far this is the largest delegate strength that we have ever had at any VFW Convention.

At the close of business last night, the delegate strength was 18,059; Department Commanders 50; National Officers 35; Past Commanders-in-Chief 24. That is a grand total of 18,168. Commander-in-Chief, this is a temporary report.

Comrade LESLIE ESKILDSEN (Post 4067—Montana). Commander-in-Chief and Comrades, I move this Convention reconsider the action it took yesterday on the committee chaired by John Stang and that we be given an opportunity to reconsider B-13, 14, 15, 16 and 17. I move to bring them back.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. B-13, 14, 15, 16 and 17?

Comrade LESLIE ESKILDSEN (Post 4067—Montana). Yes. These are the ones concerning the Political Action Board of Directors in endorsing a candidate for President of the United States. As I speak on this——

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Well, it is not open for anybody to speak on it. Are you making a motion to reconsider B-13, 14, 15, 16 and 17?

Comrade LESLIE ESKILDSEN (Post 4067—Montana). Yes, I make that motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion on the floor that we reconsider B-13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 of the proposed By-Laws that were rejected yesterday by this body. There is a motion that we reconsider. Is there a second?

Comrade LLOYD LINDQUIST (Post 3173—California). I second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion and a second that we reconsider the action of this body yesterday in rejecting B-13, 14, 15, 16 and 17. The floor is open for any discussion on the motion for reconsideration, not on the merits of the By-Laws that you want to change.

Comrade LESLIE ESKILDSEN (Post 4067—Montana). The reason I am making this motion to reconsider is, as you recall yesterday, the Chairman read off the numbers of the resolutions that they adopted.

Then instead of going on through, one at a time, and saying we have rejected this one because of such and such, he merely said all the rest have been rejected and I move adoption of this committee report.

Now, as you recall, we got to about that point, and we were interrupted for an hour and one-half for speeches. Then the Junior Vice Commander brought up M-13, I believe it was, and that was discussed.

At the end of that discussion, when the vote was taken, I was standing at this microphone with this same gentleman right here trying to get your attention. You merely called for the vote. The vote was taken and the committee was dismissed, and you went right on to Ted Connell. I never had a chance to speak on B-13. I think that is what I came to the Convention for and I would like to be able to do it.

Comrades, I ask your support in giving me this opportunity.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there any other discussion on the motion to reconsider? Hearing none, Demeter's Manual says that it takes a majority vote of this Convention to reconsider prior action.

At this time I will call for the vote. All in favor of the motion to reconsider B-13, 14, 15, 16 and 17, say "aye"; all those opposed say "no". The "nays" have it. The motion to reconsider fails.

At this time, comrades, I would like to call to this station to make a presentation on behalf of the Veterans Life Insurance Company of Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, Ms. Grace Minnix, Past National President of the Ladies Auxiliary, who is a member of the Board of Directors of the Veterans Life Insurance Company.

Past National President Minnix is a grand lady that served as National President in 1987-'88. It is my pleasure to present to you Past National President Grace Minnix.

#### PRESENTATION BY VETERANS LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Past National President MINNIX. Thank you, Larry. National Officers, Delegates and Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars:

The past ten years your Past National Commander-in-Chief Richard L. Roudebush has rendered a check from the Veterans Life Insurance Company for the programs in your organization. I have



been given the privilege to continue this policy and present this check to you this morning.

I know that Past Commander-in-Chief Roudebush would have liked to have been here to make this presentation, but travel is difficult for him. He asked me if I would do the honors for him and tell you that God willing he will be at the National Convention next year.

Commander Roudebush serves as the Chairman of the Board of Advisors of the Veterans Life Insurance Company, and I am sure you all remember Dr. John Coates. He was Past Surgeon General of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and many years Department Surgeon of the Department of Pennsylvania. He, as well as myself, serve on the Board.

Commander Larry, I would like to present this check to you now for \$2,500 for the valuable programs of this organization. It is my honor now to present this check on behalf of the Veterans Life Insurance Company to you this morning.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you very much, Grace. Please thank the Veterans Life Insurance Company.

At this time I would like to recognize and welcome to this station Mr. Anthony Stack, who is the Liaison Officer of the Organization of National Ex-Servicemen and Women from Dublin, Ireland. Welcome Mr. Tony Stack from Dublin.

REMARKS BY MR. ANTHONY STACK, LIAISON OFFICER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF NATIONAL EX-SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN, DUBLIN, IRELAND

Mr. ANTHONY STACK. Commander-in-Chief Larry Rivers, Officers, Distinguished Guests and Fellow Delegates:

I thank you once again for your kind invitation to address this Convention. This is the third Convention to which I have been invited to address the Delegates, following Chicago and New Orleans.

A lot has happened since we met last year in Chicago. The State of Massachusetts VFW has come more into the exchange visit program and in the future will be kept informed on a quarterly basis and a transcript of the Minutes of all meetings will be sent to the State. Copies will also be sent to Howard Vander Clute, Adjutant General, at the national level.

A committee is already being formed to deal with the activities for the next 12 to 24 months. The officers of this committee are Joe Casserano, Senior Vice Commander; Joe Bullock, Jr., Junior Vice Commander; Past Commander Doug Goodwan; and Liaison Officer Stack.

Now that we have become more efficient in the exchange program, the first meeting has already taken place at Post 6712, Revere, Massachusetts, and at Post 6712, Collins Barracks, Dublin, Ireland. Side committees will be set up to take on additional tasks by fund raising, et cetera, as they are needed. Each committee will be assigned a task and that will be their project only.

On Sunday, June 12, 1989, it was our privilege to host 6712 from Revere and Commander Doug Goodwan, who led the parade, with Commander Podge McCabe of 6712, Dublin, Ireland. You can imagine our delight when passing by the reviewing stand that the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Alderman Ben Brisco, had the parade halted and

called the Commander of the ONE and the VFW to the podium to present them with plaques because they were the best marching unit and the best Color Guard.

The Color Guard was led by Past Commander Al McCarthy. The method of choosing the best Color Guard and Marching Unit is taken from the Rules and By-Laws of the VFW. It was very effective since this was the first time this happened in Ireland and we continue to take VFW Rules and By-Laws and implement them in our own organization in Ireland a little at a time.

Senior Vice Commander, Joe Casserano, also known as "Cootie", asked to visit a hospital for sick children. He was taken to Our Lady's Hospital in Crumlan and was introduced to the Administration Officer, Mrs. Berta Cullen. Joe, who was dressed in his Cootie's uniform, asked if he could visit some of the wards.

Mrs. Cullen took him on a tour of the wards, where he presented jerseys, T-shirts and the likes of that to the children. This went over very big with the children and you could see their eyes light up. Joe was so taken aback that he has promised to raise a minimum of \$10,000 in two years to present to the hospital toward a lung machine or kidney machine and fund raising has already been started.

How Joe is to raise the funds is by weekly drawings, two roasts, two beer busts, all over a two-year period. Joe, who has already started this fund raising, has nearly \$1,000 in the fund. A senior veteran from Post 6712 has contributed \$100 already and a cart valued at \$1,800 to be raffled to raise over \$4,000. This money is to be presented on the 11th of June, 1991.

On the return trip to Boston there were 56 Irish veterans, who had a hectic 21-day visit in the Massachusetts area. They were accommodated in houses owned by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of that Post and it was with grateful thanks that we thanked the host families, for without their help this could never be.

In the newspapers both in Ireland and in Massachusetts, these events received a great deal of publicity beneficial to both organizations. Commander Doug Goodwan, who has submitted his yearbook, included all the photographs and write-up for the National Executive to review.

With reference to flag burning, some years ago in Ireland we had people who were burning our National Flag. They were apprehended and taken before the Court, where they were released on good behavior for one year.

Within the week of being released, they resumed burning flags but this time before they went to Court they fell down a flight of stairs, which brought us to say that our flag is not for burning. Your Veterans of Foreign Wars who fought so gallantly to save your flag, please do not let anyone burn the American Flag.

At this stage, I would like to make a presentation to Commander-in-Chief Larry Rivers in keeping with tradition of the last couple of years of presenting an Irish crystal to the Commander-in-Chief. This year it is a Belleek rose bowl.

In conclusion, I would like to thank very much LeRoy Williams and his officers at the State Department of Massachusetts for all their help and good work and I would like to wish them well for the future.

Also, I would like to thank all the officers and members of Post 6712, Revere, Massachusetts, for all their endeavors and help throughout the last year and a firm bond of friendship has certainly been cemented here and long may it continue.

In keeping with the tradition that we set in New Orleans, I have some Irish crystal to be presented to the Chief of Staff, the Commander-in-Chief, and it is from the Belleek Company, which is 100 years old this year. We have one for you, sir.

The citation reads:

Presented to Larry W. Rivers, Commander-in-Chief, VFW, '88-'89, from the Officers of the Organization of National Ex-Servicemen and Women, Dublin, Ireland.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Tony, thank you very much. Please convey our best regards to your organization as well.

At this time I would like to call for the report of the National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee, and we will call to the podium the Chairman of that Committee, Past Commander-in-Chief Dr. John Wasylik.

#### REPORT OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Past Commander-in-Chief JOHN WASYLIK. Commander-in-Chief Rivers, National Officers, Comrades and Guests:

It is my privilege and pleasure to serve as the Chairman of the National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee. I have had outstanding help from the Vice Chairman, Past Commander-in-Chief Rainwater, from California.

We had a Subcommittee that was chaired by Past Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron, covering POW/MIA issues. Assisting him was Robert Currieo, Past National Commander. I would like to point out that we also had the service of Ken Steadman, Director of the National Security and Foreign Affairs Department in our Washington office.

I want to say that Ken has been a tower of strength. He came prepared to lead and assist us and to make sure that we had all of these resolutions in proper order. At this time I want to thank Ken Steadman for the outstanding job he has done.

I want to remind all the delegates that the Convention Rules specify that I am to read those resolutions that have been adopted, or adopted as amended. At the end of my report I will ask if there are any resolutions you wish to have set aside.

Those that are rejected will be read later, and if there are no requests to set any of them aside the action of the committee will be accepted without a motion. When I get done with those, I will then turn the podium over to Billy Ray Cameron and Bob Currieo, and they will report to you on the POW/MIA resolutions.

I will read the resolution number, title and our action.

- Resolution No. 401, Take Action in Central America, was adopted as amended.
- No. 403, Military Service: A Profession To Be Preserved, adopted as amended.
- No. 404, Standing Watch Over Communist Cuba, adopted.
- No. 405, Reduce Nuclear Risk Not Nuclear Deterrence, adopted.
- No. 406, Maintain Strategic Defense as a Priority, adopted as amended.
- No. 407, The VFW: Standing Firm for Freedom, adopted.
- No. 408, No Neutrals in the War on Terrorism, adopted as amended.
- No. 411, National Strategy of Peace Through Strength, adopted.
- No. 412, Europe's Military Balance Requires Action, adopted.
- No. 413, National Defense: Whatever It Takes, adopted as amended.

- No. 415, Act Now To Prevent the Use of Chemical Weapons, adopted as amended.
- No. 416, Act Now To Prevent Strategic Surprise, adopted.
- No. 417, Support for the U.S. Coast Guard, adopted.
- No. 418, A Fifteen Carrier Navy Is a Necessity, adopted.
- No. 419, Increase Armed Forces Mobility, adopted as amended.
- No. 422, Stop Illegal Immigration at the Border, adopted.
- No. 424, Concerning the Granting of Asylum, Residence, Temporary or Permanent, in the United States or its Territories to Any Leader, President, Monarch or Dictator Concerning the POW/MIA Issue, adopted.
- No. 427, Military Leave for U.S. Government Employees, adopted.
- No. 428, Support Montgomery Amendment and National Guard, adopted.
- No. 429, Appropriations to Internal Lending Agencies, adopted.
- No. 431, Pardon LTC (Ret.) Oliver North, adopted as amended.
- No. 432, Say "No" to Funding the USSR, adopted.
- No. 434, Oppose Homosexual Acceptance in the Military, adopted as amended.
- No. 441, Support Air National Guard Training Flights, adopted as amended.
- No. 443, Support for the Republic of China on Taiwan, adopted.
- No. 444, United States Support for the Republic of Korea, adopted.
- No. 445, Support for the Philippines and U.S. Bases in the Philippines, adopted.
- No. 457, Support the Continued Production of F-14 and Future F-21 Fighters, adopted as amended.
- No. 459, Support for Effort To Restore the Military Balance in Europe, adopted.
- No. 461, Restore Lieutenant Colonel North's Retired Pay, adopted as amended.
- No. 462, Stop the Overseas Transfer of Sensitive Technology, adopted.

Commander-in-Chief, those are the resolutions the committee recommends for adoption. As I said, Comrade Steadman does an excellent job. He pointed out that I skipped No. 436 that was also adopted. We will go back to No. 436, Abrogate the 1977 Panama Canal Treaties, and that one was adopted.

Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I move the adoption of those resolutions that the committee has accepted.

Past Commander-in-Chief H. R. RAINWATER. I second it.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. You have heard the motion and the second that we adopt the resolutions just read by Past Commander-in-Chief Wasylik. Is there a request that any of those be set aside? Microphone No. 1.

Comrade JOHN HOLLAND (Post 5312—Indiana). Commander-in-Chief, I am a member of Post 5312, Aurora, Indiana, and I believe 450 was also approved in the committee.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. That would be under the POW/MIA Subcommittee, which Past Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron will do in due course.

Any other discussion on the motion? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion to adopt the resolutions as read by Past Commander-in-Chief Wasylik, please say "aye"; those opposed "no". The "ayes" have it. It is so ordered.

Past Commander-in-Chief WASYLIK. Commander-in-Chief, I will now read those resolutions which the committee rejected. Before I do, I want to take a moment to say I was extremely proud of the National Security Committee.

We had a large number of resolutions, some of which were very difficult resolutions, but the men thought them through very carefully, they discussed them fully, and we got done in a shorter period of time than any of us at the head table thought we would be able to. It was due to the excellent committee that you appointed.

Resolution No. 409, Provide Support for the Philippines, was rejected in favor of No. 445, which we felt was more comprehensive.



Resolution 410, Oppose Homosexual Acceptance in the Military, was rejected in favor of Resolution 436, which we thought was more comprehensive.

Resolution 430, Transfer Title of Commander-in-Chief to Chairperson of the Joint Chiefs of Staff During Military Conflict, was rejected.

Resolution 434, No Neutrals in the War on Terrorism, was rejected in favor of No. 408. We felt that was a little more comprehensive.

No. 439, No Loans to the Soviets, was rejected.

Resolution No. 440, Rescind the Panama Canal Treaty, was rejected in favor of 436.

Resolution 446, No Neutrals in the War on Terrorism, was rejected in favor of 408, which we felt was more comprehensive.

Resolution 447 was rejected.

No. 448, Solicit Support for Congressional Approval of Mini-Marshall Plan for the Philippines, was rejected in favor of Resolution 445.

Resolution 451, Take Action in Central America, was rejected in favor of No 401.

Resolution 453, Europe's Military Balance Requires Action, was rejected in favor of 412.

Resolution 454, Stop Illegal Immigration at the Border, was rejected in favor of 422, which we felt was more comprehensive.

Resolution 456, Delay Reparation Payments to Japanese-Americans Interned During World War II, was rejected.

Resolution No. 458, Maintain National Defense Budget, was rejected in favor of Resolution 413, which we felt was more comprehensive.

Resolution No. 460, Modernization of Our Strategic Arsenal Is Imperative, rejected in favor of Resolution 405, which we felt was more comprehensive.

Resolution 463 was a new resolution presented here at the Convention, Pardon for Lieutenant Colonel North, was rejected in favor of 431, which we felt was more comprehensive.

Resolution 464, a new resolution presented to us here at the Convention on the Panama Canal Treaty, was rejected in favor of Resolution 436.

Commander-in-Chief, unless there is a request to be set aside, these resolutions will be rejected.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrades, under the rules of this Convention, if there are no requests to set aside the committee recommendations to reject becomes the order of this body. Do I hear any resolutions to be set aside?

Microphone No. 2.

Comrade PETER PUENTES (Post 10209—Florida). I am Peter Puentes, State Commander of Florida. I would like to have Resolution 456 set aside.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Resolution 456 is set aside. Are there others? Hearing none, is there a motion that we accept 456?

Comrade PETER PUENTES (Post 10209—Florida). As the State Commander of the State of Florida, I would make a motion that we adopt No. 456.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there a second to that motion?

Comrade JAMES CARLISLE (Post 10097—Florida). James Carlisle, Post 10097, seconds the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. This has been properly seconded that we adopt Resolution 456. I will ask the Chairman, Dr. Wasylik, to explain the committee's action in regard to that resolution.

Past Commander-in-Chief WASYLIK. Comrade Commander and Comrades, we rejected this resolution on two bases. First of all, it really is not a national security issue to begin with. We really didn't know what it was doing in our committee.

Secondly, your letter of explanation, which I read to the committee, said we were not to consider outside interest groups, and No. 456 falls into that category as well. Basically, the gist of Resolution 456 is that it wants the bill that would allow reparation to the Jap-

anese-Americans who were interned during World War II to be held up by Congress until the matter is settled in the Courts.

Am I correct on that? I am sure that the person at the microphone must have had something to do with the drafting of the resolution.

Comrade JAMES CARLISLE (Post 10097—Florida). Yes.

Past Commander-in-Chief WASYLIK. All right. That is a synopsis.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there other debate?

Microphone No. 3.

Past Commander-in-Chief H. R. RAINWATER (Post 9223—California). I rise to discuss this resolution because we have had this resolution before us for many years. The Veterans of Foreign Wars adopted the reparation payments many years ago. It has gone through Congress now and we are to the point it is left up to Congress when they pay the money.

I think we have fought World War II long enough. I think that in California we have some 13 Japanese-American Posts, all fine Americans who support their families and, of course, now are great citizens of this great country.

I think it would be absolutely wrong for the Veterans of Foreign Wars to single out this segment from our organization at this time and pass this resolution.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there any other discussion?

Microphone No. 2.

Comrade JAMES CARLISLE (Post 10097—Florida). The reason that we passed this resolution at our State Convention and brought it to the National Convention was not that we cared whether or not the Japanese-Americans who were incarcerated during the Second World War received reparation payments, the reason we did it was because of the fact there is a lawsuit filed to stop it.

What we want to do is to delay it until we see what the lawsuit does. That was all. It is not that we are against the Japanese-Americans whatsoever. Thank you.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Jim, is it a foreign policy or a national security issue in the opinion of the Department of Florida?

Comrade JAMES CARLISLE (Post 10097—Florida). I think it was in the wrong committee, because it is an internal problem. It is not a foreign policy. For National Security and Foreign Policy, the committee is the one that turned it down, so that is where you put it. I didn't.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you. Is there any other debate? Is there any other debate on the motion?

We will go to Microphone No. 3.

Comrade KEN ROBBINS (Post 85—California). Let me speak on behalf of this resolution. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, we have in California some of the greatest veterans that ever went on the battlefield of this country, Japanese-Americans. They are here with us today.

I want to tell this Convention today how great these people are in community service and the community movements throughout this great state of ours. To deny these people the money they so deserve would be denying freedom to this country.

Let me say to you here, how would you like for somebody to come in and take your home and your farms, your bank accounts,

and put you on a five-acre plot with barbed wire around you? You know, when I talk about this, I don't know of any other thing that upsets me more about this country than to kick people out of their homes and put them in a camp and lock the gate.

No people deserve more than do the Japanese-Americans in this country. I say to you here today that the little bit of money that we are offering to pay them is just a drop in the bucket for what we owe them. It is time that we forget about this, pay our debts to society, and go on and make this country great.

Comrade Commander, this thing should quit being brought up at the Convention every year. Thank you very much.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there any other statement?

Microphone No. 2.

Comrade PETER PUENTES (Post 10209—Florida). I move the previous question.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there a second?

Comrade JACK CARNEY (Post 4643—Florida). I second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. You have heard the motion to move the previous question. All in favor of moving the question will say "aye"; those opposed "no". The motion passes.

There is a motion on the floor that we accept Resolution No. 456. The committee's recommendation was that we reject. All in favor of accepting No. 456 say "aye"; those opposed say "no". Resolution 456 is rejected.

Past Commander-in-Chief WASYLIK. At this point, I would like to turn the podium over to two very able Past National Commanders, Billy Ray Cameron and Robert Currie, who handled the Subcommittee on POW/MIA, and since they dealt directly with their subcommittee members I felt they would be better prepared to give this report.

So, at this time I turn the podium over to Billy Ray Cameron.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Mr. Chairman, we are going to take a break as far as the National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee Report is concerned, so we can make a couple of presentations. If you will just bear with us, we are going to delay bringing the POW/MIA Subcommittee Chairman forward.

PRESENTATION OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL AND CITATION TO  
PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF EARL L. STOCK, JR.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. During my years as Junior and Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, it was a singular honor for me to serve for and with this next gentleman. He led our organization to its thirty-third year of consecutive membership growth and through difficult personal times he constantly displayed compassionate concern for the welfare of veterans and their families everywhere.

From New York, Earl Stock has for 43 years served our organization proudly and with distinction on the local, state and national levels. He has been closely identified with veterans' employment programs, community service projects and charitable efforts.

A paratrooper with the 11th Airborne Division in the South Pacific during World War II, he joined the VFW because of the assistance the organization provided his parents when his brother was

killed in the war, a legacy that is memorialized in the Robert A. Stock Memorial Scholarship presented annually to a Voice of Democracy national finalist.

It is now my sincere privilege and profound honor to present the Veterans of Foreign Wars Distinguished Service Medal and Citation to our Immediate Past Commander-in-Chief, Earl L. Stock, Jr., from New York.

#### RESPONSE—PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF STOCK

Past Commander-in-Chief STOCK. Thank you, Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Distinguished Guests of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States on the National, State, District, County Council and Post Levels, it is a distinct honor to be singled out to receive this special award.

I assure you that Earl Stock alone didn't make this possible. It was all in the people I have been associated with in the Veterans of Foreign Wars from the grass root levels for many years that has made this possible.

As I continue my work in the vineyards, I have now returned to my home state and to serving veterans as I have in the past. Just recently, I was appointed by the Governor of the State of New York to serve on the State Veterans Advisory Committee for Veterans working with our new Director, Tom Lewis, on veterans' programs and a collective group of veterans' organizations for veterans' entitlements and improving the needs of veterans and their families.

It has been my privilege to serve you at all levels, from Post to Commander-in-Chief. At this time I want to express my gratitude to all of you for the many courtesies you have personally extended to me, the hard work all of you perform, and I want to congratulate this year's All-American Commanders for their achievement, all of the hard-working veterans, wherever you came from and wherever you do in serving our great organization.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrades, before Past Commander-in-Chief Stock leaves the podium, I would like to read the Citation.

Distinguished Service Medal and this Citation awarded to Earl L. Stock, Jr., Commander-in-Chief, 1987-'88, in grateful appreciation and special recognition of his total dedication and commitment to the highest ideals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and his continuing efforts in support of its programs and purposes. Through his leadership, the Veterans of Foreign Wars recorded its thirty-third consecutive year of membership growth and achieved new participation records in all programs during the 1987-'88 administrative year accomplishing his goal "For America—Whatever It Takes".

The Citation is properly signed. Congratulations for a job well done, my friend.

We now will call Past Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron back to the station for his subcommittee report.

#### REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON POW/MIA

Past Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. First of all, let me say thanks to our Commander-in-Chief for giving me the opportunity to once again serve as Chairman of the POW/MIA Committee. I would like to say thanks to Bob Currieo, who did a tremendous job in assisting me on these resolutions and, of course, to our Chair-



man of the National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee, Dr. Wasylik.

Before I give our report, Commander-in-Chief, I want to thank you for making the POW/MIA issue one of the top issues this year for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I know I have read many, many articles that you have written on the POW/MIA.

Let me say to my good comrades and sisters, thanks for the many, many letters that I have received on this issue. This is an issue that the Veterans of Foreign Wars feels is a top priority. We will continue to keep it a top priority.

I would like to thank my committee members who took over two and one-half hours in our committee meeting to speak out on the issues and the resolutions—I think we did a good job—in trying to adopt the resolutions that will be beneficial to those that are missing in action.

So, if you will follow along, I will follow the same procedure Dr. Wasylik employed, I will give you the ones that we adopted in our committee and I will read the title and tell you when they were amended. Then we will go back and read those that were rejected.

So, if you will look up Resolution No. 402, America's Prisoners of War and Missing in Action: A Non-Negotiable Matter of Honor, that was adopted as amended.

When I say "amendment", most of these amendments, in fact, all of these amendments were to correct language, and there were a lot of numbers in our resolutions that had to be corrected. So most of them will be amendments pertaining to that.

No. 402 was adopted, as amended.

Resolution No. 414, Support Presidential Envoy for POW/MIA'S, adopted as amended.

Resolution No. 420, Concerning the Korean War MIA Issue, was adopted.

Resolution 421, Support Public Awareness Projects on the POW/MIA, was adopted.

No. 423, POW Medal for Pueblo Survivors, was adopted.

Resolution No. 426, POW/MIA: The Highest National Priority, was adopted as amended.

If you will go down to Resolution 449, it was adopted as amended, and it states United States and Korea Get Full Accounting of POW/MIA's Before Reunification of North and South Korea is Begun.

Resolution No. 450 was adopted, and it reads Support of House of Representatives Bill No. 1730 Known as "The Missing Service Personnel Act of 1989."

Resolution 455, Diplomat Recognition as a Means of Resolving the POW/MIA Issue, was adopted.

Commander-in-Chief, if no one wants to set any of these aside, I will make a motion that we adopt those approved by the committee.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion on the floor that we adopt the resolutions that have just been read by Past Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron. On the recommendation of the committee, is there a second?

Past Commander-in-Chief JAMES R. CURRIO. Commander-in-Chief, as Vice-Chairman of the Subcommittee on POW/MIA, I second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The motion is properly on the floor. Is there any discussion or any request to set aside? Hearing none, all in favor will say "aye"; those opposed will say "no". The "ayes" have it. It is so ordered.

Past Commander-in-Chief BILLY RAY CAMERON. Now, I will read those that were rejected by the committee.

No. 425 was rejected by the committee, because we felt that most of this resolution had already been done. So there was no reason to have this resolution.

Resolution 433 was rejected in favor of 402.

No. 435 was rejected in favor of 421. That basically means that it was the same resolution.

No. 437 was rejected in favor of No. 450.

No. 442 was rejected in committee. We felt that Colonel George Dixon did a tremendous job and he explained to us that the Monk in Japan had a stroke and the information he gives we felt was not relevant, and because of his health we didn't need to have the Congress investigate this.

Any time Congress gets involved, it makes it a long drawn-out process, and we felt the best way to do it is to do it like it is being handled today.

No. 452 was rejected for No. 402.

Commander, if there is no objection, we ask that our committee be discharged.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. You have heard the recommendation of the committee to reject the resolutions. Hearing no request that any resolution be set aside, under our Convention Rules the rejections become the action of this body and that is so ordered.

Past Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Thank you very much, Commander, and thank you, Comrades.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there anything else to come from your committee, Mr. Chairman?

Past Commander-in-Chief WASYLIK. There is nothing further to come before our committee. Commander-in-Chief Rivers, on behalf of the members of the committee, the Vice-Chairman and myself, I thank you for the honor of having the privilege of serving on this committee.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, Dr. Wasylik. My thanks to you and your committee, and you are discharged.

#### PRESENTATION OF VFW J. EDGAR HOOVER AWARD, GOLD MEDAL AND CITATION

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Ladies and gentlemen, I am deeply honored today to present the VFW J. Edgar Hoover Award for outstanding service in the field of law enforcement to a man who has distinguished himself as one of this nation's most respected law officers.

Our recipient is a native of Phoenix and has lived in Arizona for over 41 years. Having graduated from the Phoenix Police Academy in 1970, Assistant Police Chief Jerry Oliver has served honorably in various positions of great responsibility for over 19 years with the Phoenix Police Department. He is a graduate of the Police Executive Institute, Police Foundation and the Senior Management Institute.

As a community activist, Chief Oliver has been most recently involved in the Consortium of Black Organizations for the Arts. In 1986, he chaired the City of Phoenix Community Services Fund Drive and helped to establish the Career Advisory Network for City Minority Employees.

He has served on numerous Boards and Commissions, including the Child Abuse Task Force and Teen Drug Abuse Task Force. His intense involvement of late is helping to found the "Special Friends

Project," a selected minority male mentorship program in the Roosevelt School District in South Phoenix.

Chief Oliver has received numerous awards, Certificates of Achievement, and other honors for community and civic accomplishments. His most recent recognition was his selection to the Arizona State University College of Public Programs Hall of Fame as a Distinguished Alumni for 1988.

Our honoree served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. He was honorably discharged in December, 1968, from his assignment aboard the aircraft carrier, the U.S.S. *Ranger*. Jerry is the proud father of four teenagers.

I now ask you to join me in giving a special VFW welcome to our J. Edgar Hoover Award Winner, the Assistant Police Chief for the City of Phoenix, Jerry A. Oliver.

[Whereupon, the assembly extended a prolonged rising ovation to Mr. Jerry Oliver, recipient of the VFW J. Edgar Award.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Jerry, before you start your remarks, if you will allow me to read the Citation. It reads as follows:

J. Edgar Hoover Award, Gold Medal and this Citation, presented to Jerry A. Oliver in recognition of 19 years of distinguished service as a law enforcement officer that has been characterized by his dedication to the preservation of law and justice, professional excellence, and concern for the citizens and youth of Phoenix, Arizona.

We are also pleased, Mr. Chief, to present to you the honorarium that goes with the award. Our congratulations.

RESPONSE BY MR. JERRY OLIVER, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE, PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Mr. JERRY OLIVER. Thank you. Commander-in-Chief Rivers, National Officers, Prestigious Guests, Delegates and particularly the Department of Arizona Delegates, good morning:

It is good to be here. As I was growing up in a family of four boys, on special occasions, like birthdays and holidays and family get-togethers, after all the photos were taken and the dishes were put away, and that kind of thing, my mother used to line us up, all four boys against the pantry door, and one-by-one she used to make sure of our growth, our individual growth.

Some of you may identify with this. She would put a line on the wall. She would have us take our shoes off and draw a line at the top of our heads and put our names and ages next to that line. She measured the distance from the last time that we had been measured, and we would talk about that.

It was really a lot of fun when we were kids to measure the physical growth, the differences between the lines. It was very vivid and it was very dramatic in terms of the changes we were going through as kids. There was a lot of conversation about the changes and a lot of debate about who might have grown the most.

But as we got older and later on when we became adults, the changes between the lines on the pantry door got less and less observable and more and more different in terms of the way in which we looked at ourselves.

Our attention turned away from discussions of sheer physical stature to discussions of our stature as human beings and as good

citizens, the recognitions and appreciation for goals, accomplishments and for our individual contributions to the good of the order.

These times became opportunities to measure as individuals the differences between who we were and what we had done, and who we would likely become, and the possibilities associated with that growth.

This morning is a very special occasion for Karen and I. The 1989 Veterans of Foreign Wars J. Edgar Hoover Award you are honoring me with this morning is a very prestigious award considering the past distinguished recipients.

When I look back at the list, it is humbling to think that I am in that group. I think this is a very nice way of commenting on my role as a human being and my contributions to the good of the order and as a good citizen.

I am most appreciative and humbled by the expression of gratitude for the work that I have done, but we all realize, and I particularly realize, there is much, much more work to be done. There is much left to do for all of us.

Like me, this great organization of Veterans of Foreign Wars through your various community programs and your various advocacies, and particularly some of the resolutions that I have even heard just this morning, I have come to realize that if America is to remain strong and we are to remain independent, and if we are to remain viable as a country that we must win the war on crime and the war on drug abuse, we must be involved in reduction of drugs in this country.

We must be involved in the interdiction side of South America and other places. We have to do something about values and attitudes in this country. We are going to wage a war in every street in this country, that poverty, that poor education, that high dropout rate, teen pregnancies, child abuse are all issues that, like moths and like larva, are eating away at the fabric of our society.

The 1989 Veterans of Foreign Wars J. Edgar Hoover Award gives me inspiration of renewed hope. It reminds me there are many millions of people like myself and like us in this room that are out there working hard to win this war that I have described.

The programs that I am involved with that were mentioned earlier, "Special Friends Project" and the child abuse programs, the Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse that I am heavily involved in, are all programs that are designed to teach youth decision-making skills.

They are all designed to enhance and not to destroy. They are to help within and help bring national attention to the spotlight to the problems we have in this country.

I thank each of you individually and I thank you collectively for the inspiration you have given me by giving me this award and for helping me to draw one more line on the pantry door and pointing the way to me for new accomplishments.

I pray and I trust that I will live up to the honor you have bestowed on me today. Thank you very much.

[Whereupon, the assembly extended a prolonged rising ovation to recipient Jerry Oliver.]



Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Chief, to you and your lovely wife, we wish you the very best. Again, our sincere thanks for all the work that you do.

#### REPORT OF VETERANS SERVICE COMMITTEE

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. At this time we will call for the report of the Veterans Service Committee, and we will call to this station the chairman of that committee, J. P. Cockrill.

Chairman J. P. COCKRILL. Commander-in-Chief and Delegates, your Convention Committee on Veterans Service convened at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, August 20. Instructions provided by the Commander-in-Chief were read. Roll call was taken and preliminary matters discussed.

The committee was divided into three subcommittees to expedite the deliberation process, and it was concurred to by the participation of the committee members. The three committees were as follows:

Veterans Benefits Subcommittee, chaired by Dennis Flynn from Missouri. The Vice-Chairman was Richard Branson from Georgia. The VFW Staff Advisors were Dennis Kelliman, Assistant Director; and William Dozier, Field Representative.

The second subcommittee was chaired by Ray O'Neill from Michigan. The Vice-Chairman was Jerry Williams from California. The VFW Advisor was Harold M. Severon, Assistant Director; and Robert Manahan, Special Adjutant General.

The third subcommittee was on Employment Programs, chaired by John M. Jackson from Arizona, Vice-Chairman Leo Anderson from the District of Columbia. The VFW Staff Advisor was James Magill, National Legislative Director, and William L. Bradshaw, Field Representative.

In behalf of this committee, I would like to express my appreciation to Fred Juarbe, Director of National Veterans Service, James Magill, Legislative Director, and the members of their staffs for the excellent technical guidance which they provided this committee.

I wish to pay special tribute to Past Commander-in-Chief Cliff Olson from Massachusetts for serving as Vice-Chairman on this important committee. A special note of thanks goes to the Subcommittee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen, and to the committee members for the professional way in which they demonstrated themselves throughout the proceedings.

I will now begin the committee report and state the action the committee took on the resolutions. I will give you the resolutions the committee approved and approved as amended. I will go through the entire list. If you wish to have any resolutions set aside, please so indicate after I complete the entire list. I will read the numbers of the resolutions and their title.

Resolution 601, Category "A" Veterans Entitlement to Out-Patient Care.

602, Parents' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation House Bound Benefits.

603, Oppose Waiver of Military Retired Pay.

No. 604, Therapeutic and Rehabilitation Compensation.

No. 609, Department of Veterans Affairs Per Diem Rates for State Hospitals, Domiciliaries and Veterans Homes.

No. 612, Provide for an Open National Cemetery in Every State.

No. 613, Collocation of VA Regional Offices with VA Medical Centers.

No. 615, Ensuring a Guaranteed Entitlement to Medical Care.

- No. 620, Reserve Retirement.
- No. 622, Expanded Consideration for Category "B".
- No. 624, Prosthetic Services.
- No. 626, Loan Guaranty Default.
- No. 627, Compensation for Surgical Removal of Malignant Tumors.
- No. 629, Staffing Inadequacies in Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers.
- No. 630, Department of Veterans Affairs Budget.
- No. 631, To Provide Adequate VA Health Care Budget.
- No. 634, Adequately Fund the Veterans Health Care System Construction Program.
- No. 635, Provide Refunds for Cause for the Montgomery G.I. Bill.
- No. 637, New Legislative Initiatives.
- No. 638, Provide Pensions for World War I Veterans.
- No. 639, Expand POW Presumptions.
- No. 640, VA Home Loan Guaranty Program.
- No. 643, Expand List of Radiation-Related Diseases.
- No. 644, Elimination of User Fees.
- No. 645, Military Pre-Separation Employment Program.
- No. 646, Educationally Disadvantaged Veterans.
- No. 648, Veterans Priority of Service Within the United States Employment Service.
- No. 649, Veterans' Vocational Training and Retraining Program.
- No. 650, Economic Dislocation and Worker Adjustment Assistance Act Known As EDWAA.
- No. 651, Veterans Employment and Training Administration.
- No. 652, Veterans Recruitment Authority.
- No. 654, Restore Social Security Benefits to Veterans and Spouses.
- No. 656, Homeless Veterans Suffering From Chronic Mental Illness Disabilities.
- No. 658, Increase Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Service Members.
- No. 665, JTPA Accountability.
- No. 666, Employment Service Policy.
- No. 670, Expand Fort McPherson National Cemetery at Maxwell, Nebraska.
- No. 673, Veterans Preference in Job Market.
- No. 674, Continue Practice of Promoting and Publicizing Special Hiring Programs for Eligible Veterans.
- No. 675, Appoint Veterans Service Organizations Representation on State and Private Job and Industry Councils.
- No. 676, Conduct Review of Policy and Decision-Making Process and Department of Labor as it Affects Veterans.
- No. 678, Support Legislation To Provide Sufficient Funding To Operate the Veterans Job Training Act.
- No. 681, Provide Sufficient Funds to VETS, Employment and Training Service and State Employment Service To Comply with Title 38, U.S. Code Chapters 41, 42 and 43.
- No. 682, Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
- No. 684, Combat Veterans-Means Test.
- No. 685, Cost of Living Adjustment to the Means Test.
- No. 691, Guaranteed Entitlement to Nursing Home Care.
- No. 692, Asset Determination for Access to Medical Care.
- No. 693, Expand PTSD Treatment Program.
- No. 698, Establishment of a VA Satellite Outpatient Clinic in Bakersfield, California.
- No. 700, Presentation of the National Soldiers Home located at the VA Center, West Los Angeles.
- No. 702, Mobile Health Care Delivery System.
- No. 705, National Cemetery Presidio.
- No. 706, Utilization of Matthew Air Force Base Hospital.
- No. 710, Construct a New VA Medical Center in Northern Virginia.
- No. 715, Retention of Overpayments by Department of Veterans Affairs.
- No. 716, Gravestone Entitlement.
- No. 718, Smoker's Rights.
- No. 720, Amend 1971 ANSCA/ANILCA Lands Claim Act.
- No. 721, Ensuring a Guaranteed Entitlement to Medical Care.
- No. 723, Amend G.I. Bill for Vietnam-Era Veterans.
- No. 737, Oppose Contracting Out Federal Jobs Reserved for Veterans.
- No. 738, Validity Generalization.

No. 749, Exclusive Appropriations Subcommittees for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

No. 750, Maintain Integrity of VA Regular Schedules.

No. 751, VA Commission on Realizing the Maker of Commission Change.

Those are the ones that were approved as read.

The next group were approved as amended. I will read the number and title. If you wish to discuss the resolution or proposed amendment, say so.

No. 605, Amend Title 38, USC, Section 314(k).

No. 606, Extend Malignant Tumors Compensation Presumptions.

No. 607, Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance.

No. 608, Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance.

No. 610, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Compensation.

No. 611, Burial Plot Allowance.

No. 614, Civilian Award of Purple Heart.

No. 615, Assistance at a National Cemetery.

No. 616, Psychotic Disorder Compensation.

No. 617, Survivors Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.

No. 623, Withholding of Grave Markers.

No. 625, Schedule for Rating Disabilities.

No. 628, Tinnitus.

No. 632, Cost of Living Increase for VA Beneficiaries.

No. 633, Herbicide Exposure.

No. 641, Expand Vietnam Era.

No. 642, Oppose Taxing Compensation Payments to Service-Connected Disabled Veterans.

No. 663, Support for Surgery at the Hot Springs VAMC.

No. 664, Funding of Veterans Employment and Training Service and LVER and DVOP.

Resolution No. 677, Increase Mileage Allowance for Veterans With Service-Connected Disabilities Keeping VA Appointments.

No. 686, Provide a Federal Veterans War Bonus.

No. 688, Nondiscrimination for Appointees to Court of Veterans Appeals.

No. 694, Restore Veterans Status to World War I Occupation Forces.

No. 696, Joint Republic of the Philippines—United States Panel on Philippine Veterans Claims.

No. 697, Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act.

No. 701, VA Medical Center, Martinez, California, Facility Modernization.

No. 707, Addition to the Los Angeles, California, National Cemetery.

No. 717, Military Personnel/Medical Records.

No. 722, Reclaim and Renovate the Former Bryan County Memorial Hospital as a VA Health Care Facility.

No. 724, VA Pharmacy Service for Disabled Veterans.

No. 727, Merging of Medical Systems.

No. 735, Strengthen V.A.R.O. Adjudication Divisions.

No. 736, Extend Service Connection for Skin Cancer.

No. 739, Adequate Funding for Title IV-C On-the-Job Training Partnership Act.

No. 740, Support Erection of VA Medical Center in Rio Grande Valley.

No. 745, Initiate Programs To Aid Veterans in Establishing Health-Related Problems of Agent Orange.

No. 752, Provision for Veterans Training Under the JPTA Job Training Partnership Act.

Commander-in-Chief, the resolutions I just read were approved as amended. I move their adoption.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. You have heard the resolutions that have been recommended for approval as amended. Is there a second to that motion? Is there a second to the motion to accept the recommendation of the committee?

Comrade JOHN JACKSON (Post 3620—Arizona). I second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a second. Are there any to be set aside?

We will go to Microphone No. 1.

Comrade JAMES GATES (Post 96—Alabama). I request that Resolution No. 651 be set aside.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Resolution 651 is set aside. Any others?

Comrade CARL JOHNSON (Post 4117—Iowa). I am Carl Johnson, Post 4117, Department of Iowa. I request Resolution 617 be set aside.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Resolution 617 is set aside.

Microphone No. 2.

Comrade WALTER KNAUSS (Post 1085—District of Columbia). Commander-in-Chief, I ask that Resolution 614 be set aside.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. No. 614 is set aside.

Microphone No. 1.

Comrade BILL KIRSOP (Post 4256—Florida). I request Resolution 745 be set aside.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Resolution 745 is set aside.

Comrade HARRY STONE (Post 5051—California). I request Resolution 696 be set aside.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. No. 696 is set aside. Are there others to be set aside? If not, is there any other discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion to accept the resolutions as read by the Chair, with the exception of the ones that have been set aside, please say "aye"; those opposed "no". The "ayes" have it.

Comrades, I am going to interrupt the Chairman's report at this point and we will discuss the resolutions that have been set aside later and take up other business at this time.

#### PRESENTATION OF VFW AVIATION AND SPACE AWARD, GOLD MEDAL AND CITATION

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrades, I am very pleased to present the Veterans of Foreign Wars Aviation and Space Award to Arnold D. Aldrich, the Director of the National Space Transportation System.

After the tragedy of the *Challenger* Space Shuttle disaster, Mr. Aldrich seized the lead in redesigning the space shuttle booster rockets and expanded the effort to redesign and improve other parts of the shuttle to improve both safety and performance.

Mr. Aldrich was born in Lexington, Massachusetts, and graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering from Northwestern University before joining the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in 1959.

Since the early years of space exploration, Mr. Aldrich has held a wide range of positions involving the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo and Skylab Programs.

Mr. Aldrich joined the Space Shuttle Program team in its early phases and soon became Manager of the Space Orbiter Program where he guided fourteen successful space shuttle flights. As Program Manager and as the Senior Engineer for our space shuttle, Mr. Aldrich is the man responsible for putting the United States back into space after overcoming the *Challenger* disaster.



Ladies and gentlemen, it is my distinct honor to present the Veterans of Foreign Wars Aviation and Space Award to Arnold D. Aldrich, Director of the National Space Transportation System.

Comrades, if you will allow me to read the Citation.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Aviation and Space Award, Gold Medal and this Citation presented to Arnold D. Aldrich in recognition of his leadership as Director of the National Space Transportation System to include the redesign and improvement of safety and performance criteria for current space shuttles.

This has been properly signed.

RESPONSE—MR. ARNOLD ALDRICH, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SPACE AND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Mr. ARNOLD ALDRICH. Thank you, Commander. Ladies and gentlemen of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, it is indeed an honor to be here today to accept this 1989 VFW Aviation and Space Award.

When the spacecraft Columbia landed a week ago Saturday at Edwards Air Force Base in California, it completed a highly successful mission in support of our national defense. It also completed one of the final milestones in an activity which for the past several years the space shuttle team, as is referred to in the space shuttle program, returned to flight.

That was the fifth flight with the launching of Discovery on September 29, 1988, when first returned to flight mission which deployed and had the tracking and data relay satellite identical with the one lost aboard the *Challenger*.

Last fall, on December 22, 1988, with its first return flight, completed another important defense mission. On March 18th, Discovery flew again, deploying another tracking and data satellite, which enabled NASA to deploy the space communications and data relay network.

In May of this year, there was quite a point made in the Challenger Space Program which today is working faultlessly and many miles out orbiting the Planet Venus and providing a detailed map of that planet's surface.

Finally, Columbia's flight this month brought our first space shuttle over and back into full service with a space shuttle Queen. Still to round out the return flight program is the completion of our tour, Endeavor. Endeavor is well alive in its fabrication at the Rockwell International plant in Palmdale, California, and will be delivered to NASA in 1991 to fly early in 1992.

In the weeks and months following *Challenger's* loss in 1986, our nation was stricken with shock, sadness and significant doubts about the space program. Nowhere were these feelings stronger than with the NASA community itself, which had experienced the unbearable sadness of losing friends and close colleagues of a major breakdown in a complex system in which NASA had great confidence and great pride and prospects of a very uncertain future of our national space program.

These feelings were soon focused, however, in an upswelling of dedication and determination to identify those things which were wrong with the space shuttle and its support system, to fully correct them and to return the space program to a safer and effective manner.

Even before the Rogers Commission and Congress completed their reviews of the *Challenger* tragedy and brought forth their findings, NASA had conducted a series of internal assessments and laid out a detailed road map for this return to flight.

Foremost among the return to flight activities was the redesign of the space solid rocket booster which was fully viewed by experts outside of NASA's space shuttle. The major booster redesigns were incorporated in the case-to-case steel drawings, the nozzle joints, the nozzle systems themselves, and external establishments and numerous other systems.

An extensive test program was put in place involving subskill mortar firings, new facilities to test and demonstrate these new designs. Full extensive oversight was provided to NASA by a Committee of the National Research Council in the booster redesign.

In parallel with the design of the solid rocket booster, detailed reviews were conducted on other space shuttle flights in one support system. These were used later for a series of additional changes to improve the liability and a safety margin to the overall space shuttle system.

Over 200 safety and reliability changes each were made to *Discovery*, *Atlantis* and *Columbia*, including major improvements to launch aboard escape systems. Approximately 30 improvements for the space shuttle maintenance were also incorporated, and these were supported by the instigation on a very expanded ongoing ground program which continues today in support of our reinitiated flight program.

Over 100 modifications were made to the space shuttle flight software to incorporate additional safety margin to provide shuttle performance improvement and for compatibility of these changes.

Finally, over 50 changes were made to the Kennedy Launch Center complex for launching the space shuttles for safety improvements and more effective operations.

In addition to these test programs, the program management and software, NASA conducted a detailed re-assessment of the Space Shuttle Program management and internal communications, which led to a major program structural reorganization, and to improvements of significant and technical reviews, and in our process for launch readiness and launch countdown decision-making.

Finally, reviews were developed to develop and to rebuild as necessary the Space Shuttle Program and operations requirements activities and documentation in the areas of the shuttle turnaround, and to continue our check-out requirements, check-out procedures, launch criteria, mission rules, flight crew procedure, flight data file, and all of the program's management and control documentations.

These activities, which I have outlined here, reflects only the more visible lights of a massive program of returning to flight effort which has led to a safer, more capable space shuttle system and a more sound national space program.

In the months ahead, the shuttle will launch the Galileo Probe to the Planet Jupiter. It will support several important properties of the defense missions, it will retrieve the log information from the storage facilities, which has been in order as a material base since

1984, and it will launch the satellite which will enable scientists to look further out into the universe than ever before.

In 1990, NASA will fly nine space flights overall with our manifest building to fourteen flights a year by 1994. In mid or late 1990, the space shuttle will launch, assemble and support the Space Station Freedom and its operations.

As we move into the first decade in the next century, I believe the space shuttle will still be the backbone of America's man space capability, in support of President Bush's newly-announced Lunar and Mars initiatives, or for other long-term space efforts which lie ahead.

These are opportunities that gleam brightly before us today as a direct result of the tremendous accomplishments of the government and industry's return to the flight team. I am extremely proud of this return to the flight effort, of this space shuttle system, and most of all, the highly dedicated and talented American men and women that made this happen.

I accept this award today as a tribute to this group, their hard work and to their success. Thank you.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Mr. Aldrich, thank you very much.

#### PRESENTATION OF THE VFW ARMED FORCES AWARD, GOLD MEDAL AND CITATION

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrades, it is indeed a great honor for me today to present the VFW Armed Forces Award to the two courageous and professional U.S. Naval Aviation teams from the U.S.S. *John F. Kennedy* who intercepted and shot down two intruding Libyan fighters who posed an immediate threat to the aircraft and ships of a U.S. Naval Task Force operating in the Mediterranean last January 4.

The Libyan Mig Fighters committed a hostile act by turning on their targeting radars which demonstrated clear evidence of their intention to fire at our aircraft and ships. Our Navy flyers reacted swiftly and decisively in taking the necessary actions to defend themselves in the face of armed hostility.

In recognizing these courageous F-14 crew members, we are also recognizing the dedication and sacrifice shown by the men and women of the sea service the world over.

Ladies and gentlemen, I welcome this opportunity to recognize the courage and to applaud the readiness and resilience that are so characteristic of the men and women of our armed forces and so reassuring for all Americans.

I am now privileged to ask Rear Admiral Jeremy D. Taylor, United States Navy, Director, Aviation Plans and Requirements, to come to the podium and accept the Veterans of Foreign Wars Armed Forces Award on behalf of the naval aviators who for security reasons could not be with us today.

#### RESPONSE—REAR ADMIRAL JEREMY TAYLOR

Rear Admiral TAYLOR. Thank you, Commander-in-Chief. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Let me step back away from that just a little bit and tell you I am pleased to be here this morning.

I would like to say good morning stokers, hard chargers, adventurers, and volunteers. It is going to be a great day. If I could paraphrase that one down and say good morning, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, patriots, flag-wavers, country-lovers, great Americans, it is great to be here.

Now, there are three reasons I consider myself very fortunate to be here to receive this honor for the warriors of our armed services, not just the naval services who are, as we speak, forward deploy which is something that you will understand, it is better to fight the war there than here.

I consider myself lucky for three reasons. First of all, I am in the budget business in the Pentagon and any time I can take a little break like this to refresh myself and get ready to go back in there for some real serious problems that we have, I am sure that Secretary Cheney will address here shortly, but coming out of town gives me a good time, and it is great to be here, and I am lucky to have that.

I am also fortunate to have this opportunity to look so many of you in the eye and say thank you for the inspiration that you have given me and continue to give me as well as all those whom have served within my 34 years and for all those, such as these young intrepid aviators who need your support and you are giving it.

You have to realize that a kid like me born in 1935, by 1940 was aware of what was going on in the world. My mother made sure of that. As you remember, while you were all participating, or many were participating in pushing back the Axis on two fronts or more, those things were on the front page of the paper and I knew we had warriors who were doing their duty, who were serving their country, who were carrying the flag forward and winning, and it fired me up.

I knew when it was my turn that the place of honor is to do something good for your country, for what she does for you. You, therefore, have set the example. You, therefore, are the security and support of everybody in uniform, then, in between now and in the future, and in a couple of years I will be applying for membership, incidentally.

You need to know that you contribute to the fighting spirit of the forces even today. So I am lucky to have this opportunity on behalf of all those on active duty to stand before this great body of great Americans and say "good on you."

Finally, I am lucky to have this opportunity to be the designated messenger and carrier to take this medal, a treasured medal, which isn't mine, I will take it and with great pride deliver it to the warriors who did their duty brilliantly—Navy for now, Libya nothing—warriors who have once again underlined along with the great flag of our country the words on an earlier flag which carried the message, "Don't Tread On Me."

I am lucky to be the messenger who will take this medal, shadowbox and framed certificate to the ready troops of the U.S.S. *John F. Kennedy* where I will carry the message from you to them that they are needed, they are wanted, they are appreciated and they are loved. God bless you all. Thank you.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you. Prior to the Admiral leaving the podium, let me read to you the Citation.



The National Armed Forces Award, Gold Medal and this Citation presented to Naval Aviation Teams U.S.S. *John F. Kennedy* in special recognition of the courage and professionalism exhibited by two U.S. Navy F-14 crews of the U.S.S. *John F. Kennedy*, in the face of armed hostility by Libyan MIG fighters who threatened U.S. Naval aircraft, ships and personnel operating in the Mediterranean Sea on January 4, 1989.

In addition, let me slip you this membership application. You guys thought I would let him get away, didn't you? I knew better than that.

In preparation for the address, in about 15 minutes, by the Secretary of Defense, I would invite the Council members that are in the audience to join us here at the platform and also any Past Commanders-in-Chief that have not joined us already to come to the platform.

In addition, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee. We do have a few minutes before the Secretary will be here. So why don't I call the Chairman back to the station for about ten minutes, and we can possibly get some of the resolutions out of the way.

#### REPORT OF VETERANS SERVICE COMMITTEE—CONTINUED

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Beginning with Resolution 614, that was set aside, do I hear a motion that we reject 614?

Microphone No. 2.

Comrade BLAIR CROSS (Post 8672—Maryland). Before I put a motion on the floor to reject the resolution, I would like to be able to hear the meat of the resolution so that we will know what we are talking about, if that is possible.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Yes. We will read Resolution 614.

Chairman J. P. COCKRILL. Comrade, I will give you more or less the meat of Resolution 614. It is the Civilian Award of the Purple Heart.

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Army has recently approved a policy that permits award of the Purple Heart to Department of the Army civilian employees who are wounded in international terrorists attacks while serving as an official duty status; and

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart has a long history of being awarded to military personnel who served in the U.S. military service and were wounded or killed in military action where life and limb were placed in great peril; and

BE IT RESOLVED, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the recent policy approved by the Secretary of the Army to award the Purple Heart to Department of the Army civilian employees who are wounded in international terrorists attacks be reversed and that:

1. The award of the Purple Heart should be limited to U.S. military personnel who are wounded or killed in military action; and
2. The Secretary of the Army should develop a different and appropriate award for Department of the Army civilian employees who are killed or wounded in international terrorists attacks while serving in an official duty capacity.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. In essence, comrades, what that resolution says is we don't believe that the Purple Heart should be for civilians. That is the essence of the resolution. The recommendation of the committee was we accept that resolution, that is, we support the fact that the Purple Heart should not be given to civilians. Some other appropriate recognition we would support, but not the Purple Heart, which has been traditionally for the military.

Hearing no motion to reject, do I hear a motion that we accept the Resolution 614 as per the recommendation of the committee?

Microphone No. 2.

Comrade PETER PUENTES (Post 10209—Florida). I am Peter Puentes, the State Commander of Florida. I move we accept that resolution.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. I recognize the comrade at Microphone No. 1.

Comrade ART MORIN (Post 2692—New Jersey). I second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion on the floor that we accept Resolution 614. Any other discussion? Hearing none, all in favor will say "aye"; those opposed say "no". The "ayes" have it and 614 is adopted.

Resolution No. 617, Mr. Chairman, will you read the "resolved" portion of 617.

Chairman J. P. COCKRILL. Comrades, Resolution No. 617 is entitled "Survivors Dependency and Indemnity Compensation." I will read the "resolved" part.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that upon the death of a veteran who was totally service-connected disabled other than on a temporary rating at the time of death and whose death was not the result of their service-connected disability, that the 10 and 5 year provisions be removed to read that the spouse is entitled to receive DIC payments upon the death of their veteran spouse if upon the time of death the veteran is so rated at 100 percent service-connected.

Let me give the amendment.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Congress to repeal the 10 and 5 year provision with respect to DIC so that a spouse is entitled to receive the DIC payments upon the death of a veteran who is totally service-connected disabled other than on a temporary rate and whose death was not the result of a service-connected disability.

That is the amended "resolved" part.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. In essence, Comrades, what the committee trying to do is to waive those 10 and 5-year provisions to say where the veteran has been rated 100 percent disabled for one day or two days, the wife is entitled to the DIC instead of those provisions that he has to have been so rated for five years or ten years. That was the intent of that resolution.

The recommendation of the committee was to accept the resolution, as amended. Is there a motion to reject? Hearing none, is there a motion that we accept the committee recommendation and adopt Resolution No. 617, as amended?

Comrade CARL JOHNSON (Post 4117—Iowa). I will make that motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there a second? Is there a second to adoption of Resolution 617, as amended?

Comrade BILL KIRSOP (Post 4256—Florida). I second it.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The motion has been properly seconded that we adopt Resolution 617, as amended, as per the recommendation of the Veterans Service Committee. Is there any other discussion on that motion?

Hearing no other discussion, all in favor of the adoption of No. 617, as amended, please say "aye"; those opposed say "no". The "ayes" have it. No. 617, as amended, is adopted.

We have just one or two minutes. Why don't we skip over 651, because I know there will be a good deal of debate on that one, and see if we can go directly to 696.

Mr. Chairman, will you read the "resolved" on 696?

Chairman J. P. COCKRILL. No. 696 was amended. I will read the "Resolved".

BE IT RESOLVED, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support the reconstitution and reconvening of the Joint Republic of the Philippines-United States Panel on Philippine Veterans' Claims if the Governor of Philippines will provide an appropriate United States government agency with such evidence that bona fide claims by Philippine Veterans derived from their activities in World War II remains outstanding.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrades, you have heard the "resolved" portion of that resolution. It deals primarily with advising the Commission if, in fact, the Philippine government will provide evidence that Philippine Veterans still have claims pending that have not been resolved arising out of their World War II service or during World War II.

That is my understanding of the point we are at now, the Philippine government has not provided such evidence there are any claims outstanding, and we don't need to reconstitute the Commission unless there are outstanding claims to be considered by that Commission.

The recommendation of the committee, with that amendment, was that we adopt Resolution 696, as amended. Is there a motion to reject that resolution?

Microphone No. 3, please.

Comrade LARRY SCUDDER (Post 1273—South Dakota). To reject, yes, sir. I will make that motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion to reject Resolution No. 696. Is that the motion you make?

Comrade LARRY SCUDDER (Post 1273—South Dakota). That is my objective and I will speak afterwards.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there a second to the motion to reject? Is there a second to the motion to reject? Hearing no second, the motion dies.

Is there a motion that we accept Resolution No. 696, as amended?

Chairman J. P. COCKRILL. Commander-in-Chief, J. P. Cockrill, Chairman of the Committee, I move adoption of Resolution 696, as amended.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there a second?

Comrade HOWARD VANDER CLUTE (Post 6467—New Jersey). I second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The motion has been moved and seconded and is on the floor that we adopt Resolution No. 696, as amended, as part of the committee's recommendation. Is there any discussion on the resolution and on the motion?

Hearing none, we will vote on the motion to accept the committee's recommendation and adopt Resolution 696, as amended. All in favor will say "aye"; all opposed say "no". The "ayes" have it. It is so ordered.

Comrades, we will have a minute or two, so I will ask the Chairman to read the "resolved" portion of Resolution 745 that was set

aside. Mr. Chairman, will you read the "resolved" portion of No. 745 while we are waiting for the Secretary to arrive.

Chairman J. P. COCKRILL. Resolution 745 is to Initiate Programs to Aid Veterans in Determining Health Related Problems of Agent Orange. The amended part would delete the entire VFW "resolved" clause. I don't have the "resolved" portion. It only deletes the "Be It Further Resolved" clause in that motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrades, the "resolved" now on 745 will read as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we commend Rensselaer County in New York for the first government entity to begin a program to aid veterans in establishing health related problems of Agent Orange.

All we are doing is recognizing that county in New York that has taken it upon itself to do something about dealing with the health-care problems of veterans with Agent Orange. The committee recommends that we adopt that resolution commending Rensselaer County in New York.

Is there a motion to reject? There is none. Is there a motion that we adopt Resolution No. 745?

Chairman J. P. COCKRILL. As Chairman of the Committee, I move adoption of this resolution.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there a second?

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. I second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of adopting Resolution No. 745 will say "aye"; those opposed will say "no". No. 745, as amended, is adopted.

#### INTRODUCTION OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RICHARD B. CHENEY

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. My fellow comrades of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, will you please give a warm welcome as our Secretary of Defense and his wife enter the hall. [Applause.]

My Fellow Comrades, Fellow VFW Members and Friends: It is my great privilege and personal honor to introduce our Secretary of Defense. Richard B. Cheney has been our Secretary of Defense since March, but in his short tenure he has already earned the admiration of his fellow citizens and the United States Congress for courageous leadership in this most demanding cabinet post.

A dedicated public servant since 1965, Secretary Cheney has served on state legislature staffs in his home state of Wyoming and in Wisconsin. He then moved to the Federal Government in the Office of Economic Opportunity; then with the Cost of Living Counsel and as a Deputy to the White House Presidential Counselor.

In 1974, Secretary Cheney joined the White House Staff as Deputy Assistant to the President and then as Chief of Staff to President Gerald Ford.

In 1978, Secretary Cheney was elected to the House of Representatives where he served in leadership roles as Chairman of the House Republican Conference and as the House Republican Whip. He also was a member of numerous House Committees, including the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Comrades, please welcome Secretary of Defense Richard B. Cheney.



[Whereupon, a prolonged rising ovation was given to Defense Secretary Cheney.]

ADDRESS BY THE HONORABLE RICHARD CHENEY, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Secretary of Defense CHENEY. Thank you very much. Thank you, Larry. As a former politician, of course, as the Secretary of Defense now, I don't do politics any more, but as a former politician I really appreciate the value of a fine introduction like that.

We always have the tradition in Wyoming that we started our campaigns every election year down in the community of Torrington, in the far east part of the state near the Nebraska border, a farming community. The agricultural groups would invite all the candidates to come down and talk to the folks and tell them what you are going to do for them if you got elected.

You assume if you have run for office six times like I have that everybody knows who you are. You have done the barbecues, the rallies and the talk shows, and then the door-to-door work. But that is not always the case.

Before the last election, before the campaign when it was my turn to speak, I went out and worked the crowd and I wanted to make sure I personally greeted everybody there before I got up to the platform.

I walked up to one old rancher with his back up against the tree and cowboy hat pulled down over his eyes. I grabbed him by the hand and said, "I am Dick Cheney. I am running for Congress and I would like your vote." He said, "You have got it. That fool we have in there now is no damn good."

So you always want to get the introduction right. I really appreciate, Larry, your kind remarks today. It is a special pleasure to be here. I know many people have used vacation time to come to this Convention, and that shows how important you consider it to be, and it just so happens that I have cut my own vacation short because I also consider it very important to be here today.

I am concerned about some of Congress' decisions and how those decisions may affect our country's future security. I want to speak out about it while there is still time to make a difference.

Last month the House of Representatives voted for a drastic cut in the funds we need to modernize America's strategic forces. My former colleagues voted as they did not because they had a better idea about how to deter the Soviet threat, but because many of them seemed to think there is no real threat any more. They have seen some changes and apparently believe everything is just fine. It is as if they had decided to give away their overcoats on the first sunny day in January.

If the House really thinks everything is fine—if it thinks the threat is reduced and we do not need to modernize—then the House ought to say so directly and return the unspent money to you, the American taxpayer. But that is not what happened. Instead, the House diverted your tax money away from critically important strategic programs and voted to spend it instead to protect jobs in selected home districts.

The Chairmen of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees probably had the best description for what happened. As

Chairman Les Aspin said that the House "passed a Michael Dukakis defense budget." As Aspin then went on to say, "The House said no to the small road-mobile ICBM or Midgetman, no to rail garrison for the large, multi-warhead Peacekeeper, and made big cuts in the Strategic Defense Initiative or SDI and the B-2, Stealth bomber." Senate Chairman Sam Nunn was even more direct. He called the house decisions "irrational."

They were both right. And let me tell you something you probably know already. The senior members of this Administration can still remember the 1988 election. In November, the voters decided, by a landslide, that they did not want the Dukakis defense budget. If the House-Senate conference produces a bill like the House bill, you can be sure it will be veto bait.

You have all heard the warm reassurances coming from Soviet leaders. I wish them well. But I also want to give you what Paul Harvey would call "the rest of the story."

It would be wonderful if the premise underlying the House's decisions were true. I wish I could stand before you and say that the Soviet strategic threat has been reduced over the past five years. But it has not. If anything, the United States is facing a more formidable, offensive strategic arsenal today than before Mr. Gorbachev took power. That's right: I said more formidable, not less.

In fact, although there has been talk of a 14-percent cut in its defense spending, since 1985 Soviet defense expenditures have actually increased by an average of 3 percent per year in real terms. At the same time our defense spending has declined in real terms by over 11 percent.

For the past year or so, Soviet leaders have said and done a number of things to suggest that their military postures and doctrines have undergone a fundamental change. In certain limited areas—like the INF agreement on intermediate-range nuclear forces—the changes have, in fact, produced positive results.

We are continuing to work hard in other negotiations—like the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks and the talks on Convention Forces in Europe—to see if we can reach further agreements that will increase stability and reduce the Soviet threat.

But we are not at that point now. Moreover, the changes we have actually seen are not ones that automatically translate into a more secure strategic environment. Virtually all of the changes and promises so far have had to do with conventional forces, or with short to intermediate range nuclear weapons. The strategic picture is radically different.

The Soviet Union has been making major improvements to every leg of its strategic arsenal. In systems ranging from intercontinental missiles and bombers to submarines and strategic defense, the Soviet Union is getting stronger, while our Congress debates and our country treads water.

Let's look at ICBMs as an example. The Soviet Union has been modernizing all of the elements in its intercontinental missile force. In 1985, it began deploying the road-mobile SS-25, a single warhead ICBM more or less like our proposed small ICBM or Midgetman.

The Soviet Union already has about 170 of these road-mobile missiles and is rapidly continuing to deploy more. We have none.

Even if the President's budget prevails, we won't have any for another eight years.

The Soviet Union also has deployed 58 large SS-24 missiles, each of which carries ten independently targetable warheads. Eighteen of these SS-24s are rail-mobile, and the other 40 are in silos.

But the Soviet Union is not satisfied with modernizing its mobile missiles. It is also spending huge sums of money to modernize stationary missiles that they have no intention of ever making mobile. To be specific, the Soviet Union has been converting silos to accommodate the fifth modification of the huge SS-18 missile. These missiles can carry at least ten warheads each, and the Soviets have more than 300 of them of varying vintages in fixed silos.

In other words, the Soviets are continuing to build and modernize very powerful multi-warhead missiles that they plan to leave in vulnerable fixed silos. This decision has crucial implications. It means that the widely publicized Soviet shift to a defensive doctrine seems to have no serious application to the strategic world.

However friendly Mr. Gorbachev may sound, however friendly he may in some respects wish to be, he cannot explain deployment of the beefed up SS-18 as a friendly act. This is a highly capable missile that would seem to its basic design to be a use-it-or-lose-it weapon—one that would make sense only for a preemptive first strike. It would be irresponsible not to modernize our own systems to defend against it.

All of this adds up. The Soviet buildup shows that we must continue to take it very seriously as a potential adversary. We need to modernize our own strategic forces because Soviet strategic capabilities are becoming more contrary. Despite some cuts, they may well be producing a leaner and meaner military force and not just a smaller one.

This was the kind of information that led President Bush to recommend a budget that placed a high priority on strategic modernization. The President took the position that nothing is as important as assuring our continued survival against the one adversary that can seriously threaten us. The Senate agreed with this thinking. But the House decided it was more important to use the defense budget as a local job protection program.

Declining defense budgets mean that we've made hard choices between competing weapons systems and programs. Indeed, for years the Congress told the Administration that it wanted to see budgets that made tough choices and actually eliminated weapons systems.

Of course, that's exactly what our budget does. But the response is curious indeed. The House simply restored the programs we wanted to cut, and paid for them by gutting the rest of the defense plan. The House's decision derived not from any defense requirements—or budget requirements for that matter—but from consideration of the political impact on jobs back home.

But they simply cannot have it both ways. They want to reap the political benefits of calls for defense cuts without suffering the political costs of what that reduced spending might mean to their district.

A good example is our attempt to eliminate the Navy's new F-14D production program. Everyone agrees it's a terrific aircraft.

Everyone agrees it should be modernized. Well, there are two ways to do that—you can build new ones, or you can refurbish the older ones. Building new ones gives you F-14s with a flyaway cost of over 50 million dollars per airplane, while refurbishing costs half as much.

We want to cancel the production program and modernize the older aircraft. The political problems comes from the Grumman Corporation that makes the F-14 is in Long Island. What the House did was keep open the new production lines in Long Island at the taxpayers expense and the military capability of the fleet.

By postponing the start-up of the remanufacturing process, and keeping open new production lines, the House would add considerably to the cost of the program or get us fewer aircraft or both. This is a perfect example of using the defense budget as a jobs program.

Of course, I cannot ask you or any other American taxpayer to give us a blank check. We must explain not just our reasons for modernization in general, but our reasons for specific systems and programs—especially the mobile ICBMs, the B-2 Stealth bomber, and the Strategic Defense Initiative, or SDI.

All of these systems and programs point to a similar objective. We have managed to preserve the peace successfully, for decades, because the Soviet Union has understood that the United States could retaliate credibly, flexibly and with determined certainty against a strategic attack, no matter how large the attack, and no matter how much of a surprise it might be.

That is the underlying idea behind the strategic Triad—the three-legged deterrent consisting of land-based ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles and manned bombers. No matter what the Soviets might do, they could not knock out all three legs of this retaliatory Triad at once.

The idea behind the Triad remains sound. However, the weapons that could do the job twenty years ago are not adequate to provide anything like the same, comfortable level of deterrence today. Old Minuteman missiles in fixed silos and an aging bomber fleet do not inspire the same confidence they once did. The Soviets are moving forward. It would be irresponsible for the United States to try to get by with aging systems.

Although the case for mobile ICBMs should be self-evident, the House of Representatives voted against both road-mobile and rail-mobile ICBMs. I am convinced that most members understand the importance of missile mobility. They were probably rebelling against two different mobile systems.

For those people, I want to emphasize how crucial it is for us to stop arguing about which is the best system. If we keep arguing, nothing will ever get done.

The Peacekeeper has already been built and deployed. It can be made mobile quickly. We should do it now to remove the specter of vulnerability from the land-based missile leg of the Triad.

The road-mobile, small ICBM has real advantages, but it cannot be ready for years. So we recommend putting the 50 already built Peacekeepers on rail, and then spending more on the small ICBM as the Peacekeeper spending winds down.



Let me turn now to the B-2 and SDI. I am convinced the American people should support these two programs. Unfortunately, our case has not yet taken hold. What we have said about the B-2 has been distorted and misunderstood. What we have said about SDI has not been heard. We need to correct both of those problems. This is a good place to start.

The first thing you hear about the B-2 is its cost. I am not denying that the B-2 will be expensive, but the cry of "sticker shock" is a phony argument. The opponents of the B-2 do not plan to return the unspent money to the taxpayers. They plan to spend it on other projects. So the real issue is not cost, but whether the B-2 is worth more than pork barrel.

The B-2 decision is really a decision about the future of the penetrating manned bomber. Our B-52 bombers are older than the pilots who fly them. By the turn of the century the youngest B-52 will be forty years old. Today we have some 250 penetrating bombers, but without the B-2, that number will dwindle to under 200 by the mid-1990s, and to just 97 B-1 bombers at the end of the century.

So the question is a simple one: do we need a penetrating bomber? To answer that question, you should think about how bombers operate. A significant portion of our strategic air force is kept on alert at all times. These planes can be airborne in minutes.

That means they would have to be attacked by missiles with very short flight times—submarine missiles, not ICBMs. Because the timing requirements for taking out bombers and ICBMs are so different, it would be virtually impossible for a Soviet first strike to destroy both systems at the same time. Whichever were hit first, there would be time for the other to take off.

In other words, airplanes—like submarines—help make the Triad invulnerable. In addition to invulnerability, however, the bombers add safety. An airplane can take off to make sure it would survive a first strike.

However, unlike a missile—an airplane can be recalled after takeoff. Because human beings are in control, no other system provides so many safeguards against human error.

That element of safety can be crucial to a President in the midst of a crisis. Imagine a situation in which the radar screen suddenly lights up, during peacetime. It looks as if the United States may be under attack, but we are not fully certain. By putting bombers in the air, a President can afford to wait until he is certain before making what could be the most important and most lethal decision any leader in history has ever been forced to confront.

That brings me to the remarkably misleading congressional debates over the B-2's mission or targets. The main strategic, deterrent value of bombers is not that they would go after different targets than missiles. They can go after different targets, of course, and they would. Bombers are by far the most flexible systems in the strategic arsenal.

But the major deterrent value of bombers is that they can also go after the most important and most difficult strategic targets—some of the same targets that might redundantly be given to a Peacekeeper. That redundancy assures the prime targets would be at risk no matter what happens to our land-based and sea-launched

missiles. It is why bombers would give the United States safer options to consider in a moment of crisis.

There is one final argument for the B-2: strategic stability. Bombers are simply too slow to be used as first strike weapons, but they would be extremely effective in rendering the other side's first strike suicidal. That is why both sides have tentatively agreed to START to use counting rules that would increase the importance of bombers, and decrease the reliance on missiles.

Under this counting rule, a missile carrying say ten warheads would count a full ten against any agreed upon limit. But each B-2, would count as only one against that limit. In short, the B-2 is an integral part of our arms reduction strategy—a strategy that was ignored by the House.

Under START, fully one-fifth of all of our nuclear warheads are to be carried by the B-2. So by gutting the B-2 program, the House is also gutting our arms reduction strategy. More importantly, a world without the B-2 would be less safe—with or without a START agreement.

The concern about safety brings me around to my last subject. I want to talk for a few minutes about SDI. An effective strategic defense could be the single most important military bequest this generation could make to the future.

There has been a lot of nonsense spoken about SDI. Some people seem to think that if you cannot assure a defensive system that would protect against all incoming missiles, there might as well not be a defensive system at all. That odd form of reverse utopianism fails to understand how even a moderately effective defense could help make a first strike unthinkable.

Put yourself in the shoes of a Soviet military planner. Suppose you knew that a significant percentage of your missiles would be knocked out by space-based kinetic energy interceptors shortly after liftoff. Kinetic energy interceptors would destroy their targets by colliding with them at great speed.

Suppose you also knew that many of the missiles that got past the space-based interceptors would be destroyed by a second layer of ground-based interceptors. You would have no way of knowing in advance which of your warheads would get through. In that situation, how could you even begin to plan a preemptive first strike?

Enhancing deterrence by confounding first strike planning is exactly the objective of the first phase of SDI. Later phases would involve directed energy, or lasers, as well as kinetic energy interceptors. These would be expected to hit an even higher percentage of missiles and reentry vehicles.

When SDI was proposed by President Reagan, some critics thought it was hopelessly idealistic. Now we have a great deal of serious research behind us, with successful tests, miniaturization of component technologies and vastly reduced unit costs. We have good reason to believe we are talking about something that is not only realistic, but that is operationally feasible within the relatively foreseeable future.

I cannot yet assure you that a Phase I system with both space and ground-based sensors and interceptors will definitely work. But I can say to you that our research and development work is very promising.

Our budget request, which the Senate came close to following, would allow the President to make a deployment decision within four years, without destroying the research into even more advanced technology that has already begun. In contrast, the House budget figures would gut the program.

The point of this program, however, is not just to preserve an option for the President. The President and I want to pursue SDI research not because we are starry-eyed, and not because we are looking for bargaining chips.

We want to pursue SDI because we think a successful SDI program would be immensely valuable. It no longer is visionary to think that a successful strategic defense could render our fears about a preemptive first strike obsolete. That is why President Bush committed himself to deploying SDI when it proves feasible.

We are serious about pursuing weapons and technologies that can enhance deterrence, increase stability and assure the security of the United States and its allies. That is why we are serious about SDI, the B-2 and mobile missiles.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union goes about building weapons that would appear to be useful only in a preemptive first strike. We cannot let the Soviet modernization program go unanswered. And yet, we feel morally impelled to seek responses that do not put the world on a hair trigger.

The House of Representatives put short-term concerns ahead of these strategic and moral imperatives. I urge the House-Senate conferees to follow the Senate and restore the President's priorities. We must not sit passively by, knowing that our children will have to live with the consequences. Thank you very much.

[Whereupon, the assembly extended a prolonged rising ovation to The Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Secretary of Defense.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrades, we still have some important business to conduct. We need to complete the Report of the Veterans Service Committee and we intend to cover the Report of the Committee on General Resolutions, and we also have some awards that we need to present to our winners of yesterday's activities.

#### PRESENTATION OF PARADE WINNERS

Comrade ROBERT BRADY (Chairman of Parade Committee). Commander, we are going to bring our people in to receive their awards. The Commander-in-Chief will present the plaques to the winning field competition and parade winners.

The first award that we will make is for 1988 Overall ROTC Champion, which was won by Oxen Hill High School of Oxen Hill, Maryland. Accepting the award is Dr. Kenneth Dailey, Chief of the Air Force Junior ROTC Program from Maxwell Air Force Base. He has been very cooperative with the VFW in establishing our ROTC Program.

Junior Open Color Guard—St. Aloysius, VFW Post 898, Cheektowaga, New York. Junior ROTC Color Guard—Moreno Valley High School, Moreno Valley, California. Junior Open Field Contest—Moreno Valley High School, Moreno Valley, California. Senior Men's Color Guard—Clark Rifles, VFW Post 8437, Enon,

Ohio. Senior Ladies' Color Guard—Lucky Ladies, VFW Post 3142, Charleston Heights, South Carolina. Junior ROTC Armed Drill Team—Silent Knights-Cedar Shoals, Athens, Georgia. Junior ROTC Unarmed Drill Team—Moreno Valley High School, Moreno Valley, California. Junior Open Armed Competition—Clark Rifles, VFW Post 8437, Enon, Ohio. Junior ROTC Champions—Moreno Valley High School, Moreno Valley, California. All-Girl ROTC Color Guard National Champions—North High School Marine Corps Junior ROTC, Des Moines, Iowa. All-Girl ROTC Rifle Drill Team National Champion—Upson High School, Naval Junior ROTC Unit, VFW Post 6447, Thomaston, Georgia.

Parade winners: The Best Performing Band—South St. Paul High School, VFW Post 295, South St. Paul, Minnesota. Best Appearing Senior Men's VFW Color Guard—Imperial Knights, VFW Post 4789, Erie, Pennsylvania. Best Appearing Senior VFW Ladies Auxiliary Color Guard—Firebirds, VFW Post 6782, East Detroit, Michigan. Best Appearing Junior Color Guard—South St. Paul High School, VFW Post 295, South St. Paul, Minnesota. Best Appearing Drill Team—Clark Rifles Junior Boys Rifle Drill Team, VFW Post 8437, Enon, Ohio. Best Appearing Ladies Auxiliary Marching Unit—Department of Wisconsin. Best Appearing VFW Marching Unit—Department of Massachusetts. Best Appearing ROTC Uniformed Marching Unit—Moreno Valley High School, Moreno Valley, California.

For the first time, we awarded plaques to the floats in the parade. First Place—Department of Missouri. Second Place—VFW Post 881, Wellington, Kansas. Third Place—VFW Post 1990, Department of Texas. Special Judge's Award—Roubideaux Air Force Junior ROTC, Riverside, California.

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. Commander-in-Chief Rivers will now recognize those departments who did an outstanding job in selling one million Buddy Poppies during the administrative year. We will also announce the Buddy Poppy Display Windows after you recognize those Departments that did such an outstanding job in the sales of Buddy Poppies.

#### AWARDS FOR BUDDY POPPY SALES

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. Seven Departments sold in excess of one million Buddy Poppies last year.

Minnesota led the nation in total Buddy Poppy sales with 1,203,830 poppies. Minnesota was followed by the Department of Illinois with Buddy Poppy sales of 1,175,500.

The Department of California sold 1,162,500 Buddy Poppies last year.

The Department of Ohio sold 1,147,098 Buddy Poppies and the Department of Texas recorded sales of 1,040,000 Buddy Poppies last year.

The Department of Michigan sold 1,034,000 Buddy Poppies and the Department of Florida recorded a net sale of \$1,018,000 Buddy Poppies.

[Whereupon, the Commanders of the aforementioned states received awards from the Commander-in-Chief.]



The award winners in the 90th National Convention Buddy Poppy Display contest were as follows:

In Category 1, which is Public promotion of Buddy Poppy Sales, in 3rd Place—Johnson-Phelps Post and Auxiliary 5220, Oaklawn, Illinois; in 2nd Place—Clarence McGuire Post and Auxiliary 7852, Richwood, Wisconsin; and 1st Place—Vickery Post and Auxiliary 3359, Garland, Texas.

In Category No. 2, Memorial or Inspirational Display, 3rd Place—John Franklin Sprague Post and Auxiliary 6796, Dallas, Texas; 2nd Place—Woodward Post and Auxiliary 1335, Woodward, Oklahoma; and 1st Place—Pleasure Valley Post and Auxiliary 1181, Valley Station, Kentucky.

Category 3, Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies, 3rd Place—Sweet-Sommers Post and Auxiliary 1642, Waseca, Minnesota; 2nd Place—Cheyenne Mountain Post and Auxiliary 3917, Security, Colorado; and 1st Place—Markham Memorial Post and Auxiliary 9801, Markham, Illinois.

Special Awards were given to Jess-Omundson Post and Auxiliary 1676, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota; Raymond McGill Post and Auxiliary 2256, Benton, Arkansas; and La Salle Post and Auxiliary 4668, La Salle, Illinois.

In addition to the first three place winners, Honorable Mention Awards were given in the following categories:

Category No. 1—Jones-Austin Post and Auxiliary 2401, Beaufort, North Carolina; and Marion Oaks Post and Auxiliary 10091, Marion Oaks, Florida.

Category No. 2—Rainbow Post and Auxiliary 2681, Marietta Georgia; and Arthur W. Jones Post and Auxiliary 7564, West Fargo, North Dakota.

Category No. 3—Abington-Oldtown Post and Auxiliary 7737, Abington, Massachusetts; and Castle Rock Post and Auxiliary 10578, Castle Rock, Colorado.

That concludes the list of award winners for the 90th National Convention Buddy Poppy Display contest.

[Whereupon, Commander-in-Chief Rivers assumed the chair as presiding officer.]

#### REPORT OF VETERANS SERVICE COMMITTEE—CONTINUED

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. When we interrupted our meeting to hear from Secretary of Defense, we were working our way through the Veterans Service Committee Report, and I would ask the Chairman to return to this station.

According to my notes, we had set aside five resolutions, four of which we dealt with before the Secretary's visit, leaving the last one set aside—Resolution 651. I would ask the Chairman to read the "Resolved" portion of that resolution.

Chairman J. P. COCKRILL. Resolution 651, Veterans Employment and Training Administration.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition the Congress of the United States to transfer the functions of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment outlined in Sections 2002(A) and 2003, Title 38 United States Code from the Department of Labor to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and that it be established as the "Veterans' Employment and Training Administration" commensurate

in status with the "Veterans' Health Service and Research Administration" and "Veterans' Benefits Administration"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we support legislation to mandate that sufficient funds be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs from the Unemployment Trust Fund "Employment Security Administration Account" to administer the "Veterans' Employment and Training Administration" within the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The resolution asks for moving the functions of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment out of the Department of Labor into the new Department of Veterans Affairs and have the same status as the other agents that have benefitted the administration, the Hospital Administration, and now a third, but also the funds from the trust fund be appropriated to fund it.

It was the recommendation of the committee that that resolution be accepted. Is there a motion to reject?

Microphone No. 1.

Comrade JAMES GATES (Post 96—Alabama). I am a member of the Subcommittee of the Veterans Service Committee. I move rejection of Resolution No. 651.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion on the floor that we reject Resolution 651. Is there a second?

Comrade GENE MANFREY (Post 6827—Florida). I second that motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion that we reject Resolution 651. The floor is now open for discussion on Resolution 651.

I will again go to Microphone No. 1.

Comrade JAMES GATES (Post 96—Alabama). For many years, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and other organizations have attempted to accomplish two major projects. One was the establishment of an Assistant Secretary of Labor for veterans. The other was to establish the Department of Veterans Affairs as a cabinet level. We have accomplished both.

Now, it is being proposed that we turn around and change our mind about how we handle the veterans' training program, that is, by moving the entire program of that employment training over to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

At first blush, reading of Resolution 651, would sound like that is just what you want to do, because it tells us as we are going to move all of this employment activity over to the one cabinet person who is responsible for the veterans' programs. However, I can't agree with that principle.

I went out on the true measure of things that I want to call to the attention of our comrades and delegates here. One is that by moving the Assistant Secretary of Labor over to one of the Bureaus of the Veterans Administration would not get rid of your problems with the Department of Labor as long as the Department and training system is funded out of a federal unemployment tax account.

We need to understand that that is a trust fund, just like the Social Security fund is a trust fund, just like the Railroad Retirement Board fund is a trust fund. There is no way that another federal agency can dip into that fund without major legislation.

To obtain that major legislation, you would have to fight the National Association of Manufacturers, you would have to fight the AFL-CIO and other labor organizations. You would have to fight the bureaucracy of all of the state governments, and it seems to me like we are attacking a mountain with a toothpick instead of a steam shovel.

This is an unusual situation. Of course, your Resolution 651 states that we will not support any legislation that doesn't provide for the transfer of these funds out of the trust fund into the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Well, it is my opinion, for what it is worth, that we won't be able to accomplish that because of the opposition of all the labor group people in the country. They want to save that trust fund to administer the unemployment compensation program and to administer the job security of all these state employment services.

That just, in my opinion, is no way to get to it. Because of the time problems here, I am not going to discuss that phase any more. I just don't think we can accomplish that part of it.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, Mr. Gates.

We will go to Microphone No. 2.

Past Commander-in-Chief R. D. SMITH. Comrade Commander-in-Chief and Delegates to this great Convention, I rise in opposition to Resolution 651, transfer of the Employment and Training Service Officer to the Veterans Administration.

It has been rumored, Commander-in-Chief, that only those of us that work with the Veterans Employment Training Service are fighting this resolution. I think you are going to hear other people of this organization speak on this. I think you fully understand what problems we have had in the past with the VA.

The VA has their own problems, and they are bogged down. You know, when we go in and we try to get people into hospitals, we try to get the pension benefit passed we try to get support, and some support this, and you know how difficult it is to get these things done.

I know that we do have a Secretary of Veterans Affairs that now has a cabinet level position. We have a Secretary of Labor who has had a Secretary level position for many, many years. That is all we have had, is the Secretary of Labor.

We have done our job well and we are continuing to do our job well, but as the comrade said over there from Alabama, the Veterans' Employment Training Service is funded out of a trust fund, an employee's tax, and to move it over in the VA, to set the kind of money for this agency, I know that in my state the Commissioner of the Department of Labor informed me that every employee ought to be contacted and urged by comrades here to keep the Veterans' Employment Service where it is.

If the day comes when the VA can solve their problems, then that is the time for us to make a decision such as this stage. But we do need to keep an organization or keep an agency where it is that has done a good job since 1934. Thank you, Commander.

[Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Hogan assumes the Chair.]

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. Microphone No. 3, please.

Comrade JOHN MAHAN (Post 1116—Montana). I feel as a person that had the opportunity to be at the Budget Committee of the Veterans Administration of the United States for three years, and also as an attorney in my state for the Unemployment Compensation Commission, that this would be a bad thing. I will tell you why.

Every time the VA gets another program, they have to find the money. They are not going to get the money from this trust fund. You can rest assured of that. What is going to happen is that health care, which needs more money today because they can't take care of their sick veterans they have and they can't in our state, I know, that money is going to be taken away from the health care for this program and both programs are going to lose. I urge you to reject Resolution 651.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. The Chair recognizes the comrade at Microphone No. 1.

Comrade WALTER KNAUSS (Post 1085—District of Columbia). At the Convention of the Department of District of Columbia held last June, we favored the intent of Resolution 679. Therefore, we speak in opposition to Resolution 651. Thank you.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. Microphone No. 2, please.

Comrade WILLIAM STIEFVATER (Post 6498—Wisconsin). Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I have been the Civil Service Employment Chairman for five years in the State of Wisconsin, the County Veterans Service Officer for 12 years and counselor for all veterans for 17 years.

I am opposed to Resolution 651 for all the reasons that were mentioned before, and the additional reasons that the VA Department of Veterans Affairs has had other responsibilities to include business administration benefits of veterans. Now, it is under the SBA.

It is there because the VA couldn't handle it. The VA had at one time employment counselor programs and unemployment compensation. The VA gave that up for the Department of Labor. We are now going back in time doing something that failed in the past. We are re-inventing the wheel.

This didn't work then and it is not going to work now. Our staff in Washington will be better served by lobbying for increased benefits for hospital benefits, for hospital systems, Agent Orange, post-traumatic respiratory problems. I think there are more things in Washington than the employment training system. If the system ain't broke, don't fix it.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. Thank you.

Microphone No. 3, please.

Comrade CHARLES GILLINGHAM (Post 7283—California). I speak in opposition to this. I am retired from the military service and after my retirement I went to work for the Department of Employment in the State of California, and I retired there as an officer of the local Office Veterans Employment Training Center. I know what it is in the local office.

Resolution 651 wants to transfer the Veterans' Employment and Training Service to the Veterans Administration but they are leaving the local office people to work through the state. When this happens, it is not going to work.



Number one, the state employment agency has gone on record, the veterans are a small part of the employment service, and the first thing the state agencies are going to do is say, is "Fine. You have a Veterans Administration, you take it."

The employer depends upon the state employment agencies to provide them with their employees. When they take the veterans employment out and give it to the VA, the employers continue giving their job openings to the state agencies, what is the VA going to do?

This will not work. It came up at the State Convention. I was a member of the Employment Committee there, and the delegates in the State of California and the Convention in Bakersfield voted to reject this amendment.

Past Commander-in-Chief JOHN WASYLIK (Post 2529—Ohio). I speak in opposition to Resolution 651. In the interest of time, I am not going to reiterate what has already been said but merely add one point.

That is, that talk about going to the Congress for additional legislation and the opposition it would receive there. We have just gone through this in Ohio, in our Veterans Service Department. You know, it worked, but they said we want to fix it. They fixed it all right.

Our author slipped in some language that has made it very, very difficult for us in Ohio. I would remind you delegates that the Congress can do the same thing, as those people from employers groups that want to put in restrictions, they might well go along with the bill and there might be restrictions that we might not want but can't stop. So I would urge the defeat of Resolution 651.

Comrade JOHN JACKSON (Post 3632—Arizona). Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I speak in support of Resolution 651. I have had ten years of experience in the State Employment Security Agency in Veterans Service as a local officer of Veterans Employment and later as a State Supervisor of Veteran Services.

I also have ten years with the Veterans Employment Service, which is now called Veterans Employment and Training Services. I am retiring from that agency. I speak to this, because we are in a new ball game, and we better recognize it because next year you will get back here with the same thing if you vote it down now.

But let's look at it for what it really is. We have the local office of Veterans of Foreign Wars representatives still in the local office, still operating under the functional supervision of these individuals who will be moved from the Department of Labor to the Veterans Administration. I see nothing wrong with that. They will continue to function.

The thing that may create hardships for some of the individuals who are moved from the Department of Labor to the Department of Veterans Affairs is the fact that they may have to move, they are going to have to relocate their office to another site. But their functions do not change, comrades.

One final point, or two final points. I would like to relate to you some of the things that occurred in discussions on budgets. I sat in the Department of Labor in Washington and I attended the budget meetings and I had my boss there, the guy who headed the veterans' programs.

I can tell you this, regardless of what he said in the end, the guy above him decided the issue. As long as you are the Department of Labor, it is going to be decided that way.

Now, the last issue that I have and the last point I want to make is that we have in this resolution proposed a movement to the Veterans Administration or the Veterans Affairs Department. When we have the budget item that we want support on, I would much rather have mine sitting right there in the Secretary of Veterans Affairs than over in the Department of Labor trying to fight his way out of that system without a great deal of result.

Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I support Resolution 651.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. Thank you.

Microphone No. 3 please.

Past Commander-in-Chief HERBERT RAINWATER (Post 9223—California). I suspect that I stand here unique in that I served as the Director of the Veterans Employment Service, United States Department of Labor, during the wind-down of the Vietnam conflict. I also served as Director for the VA Regional Offices from which I am retired.

I stand in opposition to the resolution, because we are going to fragment this service to the detriment of the veterans of this nation. My experience with the budgeting process is simply this. Each time that I had to absorb an increment of personnel from another fragmented unit in the VA, I was told you get these employees FID positions, but you have to absorb them in your own funds, in your budget. That will happen if we get them from the Department of Labor, you can bet on that.

So, comrades, I urge you to defeat this resolution, because it has such far-reaching implications and it needs much, much more deliberation and study. I was not on the committee, but I understand that the subcommittee recommended, after a long study, defeat of this resolution. So, comrades, I urge you to defeat Resolution 651. Thank you very much.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. The Chair recognizes Gene Manfrey from Florida.

Comrade GENE MANFREY (Post 6827—Florida). Commander-in-Chief, I rise to speak for defeat of the motion. Comrade Commander and Comrades of this 90th Convention, I, too, with Chief Rainwater was a federal employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Eighteen years ago I came to Florida with the Veterans Administration. We had some 800 employees working in the Regional Office. Today we have less than 500 employees. We are trying to find them to process claims and we are not doing them timely as you have read in the resolutions that you have coming out of your Veterans Service Committee.

I am concerned that if we do transfer the Department of Labor activities to the Department of Veterans Affairs that, as we saw those cuts in the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Veterans Administration, you are going to find them more.

We are going to lose employees not only in the Department of Labor, you are going to lose them under the Department of Veterans Administration. I speak to save those jobs and vote against this resolution. Thank you.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. Microphone No. 1.

Comrade WALTER LUKSTA (Post 9115—Illinois). Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I rise in opposition to this resolution for the simple reason that the members of the Department of Illinois at their Convention rejected this resolution.

I have served this organization for many years in the private sector and I have spent 18 years in personnel matters and with a major corporation of our country. I have spent a total of 12 years with the United States Department of Labor, Veterans Employment Training Service, and with a private community-based organization dealing exclusively with the employment-related matters of our disabled veterans and other veterans.

I cannot see and comprehend where we, as a major organization, would attempt to try to affect a merger of Veterans Employment Training Service and the Department of Veterans Affairs without even communicating with any of these professional people who have been employed by the Veterans Employment Training Services.

I do not believe that one out of fifty State Directors has previously been contacted regarding this move. I think this is strictly an error in judgment of our office. I firmly believe that if you are going to attempt to provide service to the needed unemployed veteran, the Department of Veterans Affairs is not going to have the money and further the people that are at VA facilities that are in every state can rest assured the Department of Veterans Affairs will never have sufficient money to establish offices into the local communities and counties where the unemployed can get some type of service.

On behalf of the members of the Department of Illinois, we expressly urge our colleagues present to vote this resolution down.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. I recognize at this time Commander-in-Chief Larry Rivers.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. I am Larry Rivers, VFW Post 1736, Alexandria, Louisiana. I rise to speak in support of Resolution 651. I don't stand here to speak for the employees of the Department of Labor, I don't stand here to speak for any state agency, I don't stand here to do anything but speak for what I think is best for the veterans of this country.

I can't tell you that I am well-versed in what we may have done in the past years or what kind of problems might have gone on in the Veterans Administration as opposed to the Veterans Affairs. I can tell you what I think is best for the future.

How could we have fought so hard to get cabinet level status and then stand here on this floor and say we cannot even trust that cabinet level agency and the chief veterans' advocate in the country to also administer labor programs, employment programs for veterans? It is a contradiction in terms.

We have a Department of Veterans Affairs, the chief veterans' organization to look after veterans. For us to stand and say our new Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Ed Derwinski, or his successor, will not be advocates for us in the employment field, I cannot understand that.

What gives the Secretary of Labor special status to speak for veterans? Who speaks for veterans in this country? The Secretary of

Veterans of Affairs. He ought to speak for us on health care, which he does. He ought to speak for us in the areas of benefits, which he does.

He ought to speak for us in the area of employment, which he does not. The Secretary of Labor is in charge of taking care of the veterans in the country on employment. He should not be. The cabinet level that is charged with that responsibility is the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

It made sense when we were an agency level, that is the VA and not the Department of Veterans Affairs, it made sense to have that cabinet-level clout, and that is why we worked so hard to have the Assistant Secretary of Labor, because we at least have an Assistant Secretary with cabinet status.

We didn't have that in the VA. We have that now. Do you think we should transfer the care of hospitals to Health and Human Resources? Do you think we ought to transfer our G.I. Home Loan programs to Housing and Urban Development? Certainly not.

Things change rapidly. We have budget problems. Every agency has budget problems, not only the VA. If we think that simply by being tucked away in the Department of Labor that somehow the Veterans Employment Service is going to avoid the budget problems every other agency has had, that is a smoke screen and we are kidding ourselves.

Let's put this debate in proper perspective. Resolution 651 asks for and says what the VFW position is going to be. It says two things. It says, one, we want to create in the Department of Veterans Affairs a cabinet level agency, a co-equal employment officer, who is now the Assistant Secretary of Labor, that will take a seat alongside the Chief Benefits Director and the Chief Medical Director to complete our triad in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

It also says to address the funding concerns some of you have. We support legislation mandating the funds be appropriated from the Employment Security Administration as that office is funded now. Let's do something good for veterans—that is what we are talking about here—28 million of them.

We are not talking about what some state agency or—in fact, if the state agencies are against this resolution, that we must be doing the right thing. We ought to support it. Resolution 651 should be supported. It is the right thing to do. My comrades, I urge you to support 651 and support the committee's recommendation. Thank you, comrades.

Comrade LLOYD LINDQUIST (Post 3173—California). Commander-in-Chief, I stand here in support of Resolution 651. Comrades and delegates, you have heard some professional people that have been involved with the employment of our veterans program.

I was on this committee and I listened with great intent and listened to our Director. But that wasn't enough for me. I searched around and I found the complete law as it is written. I spent a couple of evenings reading it. I tried to study the viability that was the best.

I find nothing in that law that would change anything at all, except what comes up all the time is money. Money comes in this organization and in every part of our government today as before. Let me mention this and my definite feelings.



If there are going to be budget cuts, there will be cuts all over, really. If the Department of Labor gets cut, you tell me where they start nibbling first. They nibble at the veterans. My concept of the VA in all my life in this organization, and I am no stranger to us, every once in a while I get the feeling that the veterans lose sight of the Veterans Administration, of why it is there.

That is the only agency we have as veterans that will fight our battles for us. Sometimes we get some good administrators and sometimes we get some bad ones. But we get caught in the crack sometimes that we ought not be caught in, and we criticize the VA because they don't do their job right.

Let me tell you, the way the world is going, if we don't stop criticizing too much and start helping the VA, our enemies will say, "Even the veterans don't want the VA." I feel it is very important that we put the Department of Training in the VA.

As has been said before, we have a VA system that has a cabinet member now. You will have someone to work for us. The mood will not change as far as representation for the veterans except for having a stronger voice, because our Administrator of the VA will speak stronger than the Administrator for the Department of Labor.

I have heard nothing but complaints in the last 10 to 15 years how worldly the Department of Labor serves the veterans. Please, comrades, please look to the future. We know what has gone on in the past. We will have to think about the future. I am a guy that has always been concerned about what happens today, but I also will look and try to work in the future with all phases of the organization. That is what we are doing here today.

Comrades, I urge you as a delegate to this Convention to vote for 651 and let the VFW be the leader in taking care of veterans. Thank you.

[Whereupon, Commander-in-Chief Rivers assumed the Chair.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Microphone No. 1, please.

Past Commander-in-Chief EARL STOCK (Post 3275—New York). I am Earl Stock, Post 3275, Ft. Plain, New York, and a delegate from my Post in the State of New York. I speak in opposition to this resolution.

Number one, I would have to agree with a number of speakers, including our Commander-in-Chief. He has given us some very important information at this point in time. I am sure when the time comes that probably we should go that route.

But as we are all aware, at the present time the Department of Veterans Affairs is a new organization, and just yesterday Secretary Derwinski said he had recommended some 40 appointments several weeks ago and so far Congress has not acted on them.

These are concerns I have if we try to do too much too soon. We are talking about funds that are controlled by employers. Our veterans training programs, we had to depend on outside companies and units within the organizations of the states that we come from.

Yes, we are concerned about veterans, but I am also concerned about the promotional levels. You know, we talk about our great VA system, and I have always supported veterans' programs and veterans' entitlements.

I also know that in recent years you will find that veterans have been forgotten in the VA system and they have employed outside people that never served this country in higher positions when we have men and women working there for many years who should have been promoted.

So I say to you, my comrades, I think in time we should have it all under the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. But until we are able to gain that working condition, and we have one of the most capable secretaries, an individual that has strong reservations about the needs of veterans and their families, and who is working hard for us, but until he has a chance to get this system in working order, I would say we should reject this resolution.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Microphone No. 2.

Comrade DEWAIN WEST (Post 2874—Wisconsin). The first thing I would like to do is raise a point of order. I am not trying to be the Parliamentarian, however, I don't want to see our Commander-in-Chief put on the spot. He should serve as presiding officer until after this resolution is passed or rejected.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. I don't know what manual you have been reading. I left the podium and went to the floor to speak.

Comrade DEWAIN WEST (Post 2874—Wisconsin). You cannot assume the Chair after you speak on the motion until after the resolution is passed or rejected.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. My comrade, if you will point that out in Demeter's Manual, I will be glad to vacate the position of presiding officer.

Comrade DEWAIN WEST (Post 2874—Wisconsin). What I want to say is that I am in opposition to Resolution 651. I belong to the AFL-CIO State of Wisconsin Veterans Committee.

We have built this over many times after the status of the pattern of the Veterans Affairs was put in cabinet status. We have 28 people on the committee from the State of Wisconsin AFL-CIO, 20 members out of 28 that belong to the VFW. The other eight members belong to the DAV, the American Legion and so forth.

We have always worked for veterans and we studied this very carefully. With the status, it is great. But we always talk about who is going to finance this, and this is the subject that was talked about. You know that in the Department of Labor and through your states, your representatives are half for management and half for labor, and we have new faces in our management situation just as we have new cats in our Congress and Senate, and they are not veterans.

This way you are going to shift again where we will have to fight alone for about 20 more years or until another World War breaks out to get some money, and money is the whole thing. We have been working in the State of Wisconsin to get veterans' programs through the Department of Labor, and with the cooperation of management and the labor unions we have gotten some of the best legislation as far as veterans' programs are concerned.

When we sit down and bargain at the table, we take the veterans into consideration. Because of the fact that we bargain, the veteran does benefit. We have gotten some terrific legislation, including five points for a veteran in civil jobs, and this was done through

our veterans committees in the AFL-CIO. I again reiterate I am against this. Thank you.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Microphone No. 1, please.

Comrade FRED JUARBE (Post 401—New Mexico). I am Fred Juarbe, a delegate from Post 401, Albuquerque, New Mexico. I stand in support of Resolution No. 651. My comrades, I am going to speak to you about the facts, about the future, about the conditions and about fighting.

The fight is that the VFW is the future. We are faced with the budgetary constraints in our entire government. The Department of Veterans Affairs is no different. We have seen less emphasis on veterans' programs and attention to veterans as we get further away in wars and hostile action.

A long-time goal of the Veterans of Foreign Wars was accomplished last year when Public Law 100-527 was enacted, establishing a cabinet level Department of Veterans Affairs so that we would have a Secretary sitting in the cabinet speaking for the veterans.

Now, Resolution 651 looks to that future. No. 651 may mean change, and I recognize that. I recognize that change threatens. But the VFW has to look to tradition, and that tradition is not being intimidated by change and that condition of fighting, seeing what needs to be done and doing it.

When veterans' programs were splintered all over our government, almost 60 years ago the Veterans of Foreign Wars fought and established the Veterans Administration. Last year we got the Department of Veterans Affairs.

When we saw that veterans were not being given the proper attention in the Department of Labor under the Veterans Employment Services, we fought to establish the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment. We got that. You can take credit for that.

When we saw nothing was happening, again we fought even harder and we got this Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment Training Service. We got the entire strategy and greater recognition for the State Directors and for LDR's and the people that you have here today that have spoken very eloquently.

But still with the Assistant Secretary of Labor of Veterans Employment and Training Services, when decisions are made in the Department of Labor he is not consulted as to how they affect veterans. Policies that are developed as we see the station from the Veterans Employment Services to the states and to the Job Training Partnership Act, we see that the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training Services is not consulted as to how it will affect veterans.

There is under law a Secretary of Labor Committee on Employment of Veterans. It has two Secretaries who have never shown up to any of those meetings. There was a Secretary before that which would only show up for a few minutes, and that was it.

In approximately 25,000 words of speeches that the present Secretary of Labor, Secretary Dole, has spoken, she has only mentioned veterans once, and that was to recognize her disabled husband, the distinguished Senator Dole.

I understand the Secretary of Labor has many constituents; it serves many citizens. Veterans is just one among them. The Department of Veterans Affairs and its Secretary has only one constituent and that is the veteran. He will speak for us. That is why I stand before you in support of Resolution 651.

We hear that the old Veterans Administration did not provide the services that it should have provided to veterans. Well, based on budgetary constraints, the budgetary constraints that are enforced by the Office of Management and Budget, the problem is the Department of Labor for veterans' training programs doesn't have to go through the Office of Management and Budget because they stop at the Secretary's level.

By enacting Resolution 651, and let's talk about the facts, it supports the transfer of Veterans Employment and Training Services to the Department of Veterans Affairs contingent on, first of all, the fact that funding will be assured on the federal unemployment tax cuts, that money will go over.

There is a concern about the identity of the Veterans Employment and Training Service. My comrades, we fought too many years to establish that position to give them away. That law calls for us to support whatever legislation will be enacted or will be considered in Congress, contingent on the fact that the Veterans Employment and Training Services will be transferred straight over to the Department of Veterans Affairs and equal status with the Chief Directors of the Veterans Administration and the Health Services, and Research Administration, Chief Medical Director.

Right now, the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Employment and Training is a Level 5 Assistant Secretary. The Chief Benefits Director, and the Chief Medical Record Director is a Level 3. That is a higher status, and we would assume that he would be given that same status.

We are calling for a continuum of services to veterans. The Department of Medical Affairs is responsible for readjustment of veterans. That calls for training, the rehabilitation, the education of them. What is the ultimate goal of all of that? It is that that veteran join his community as a contributing member of that community.

We do have clout now. We have an outstanding Secretary of Veterans Affairs who every opportunity he gets to speak to the President about the needs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, he does it. He has demonstrated that for us. It goes beyond employment and training programs.

As I said before, we only support it if the funding comes over. So how would he speak? He will establish stronger guidelines that will require the state security agencies to use the Veterans Outreach Program representatives. The local veterans are not being utilized right now.

My comrades, what Resolution 651 is calling for is for you to allow your organization to debate this issue in Congress and to be assured that we are going to work for what is best for the veteran. So, comrades, I ask you to support Resolution 651 so that your organization stands strong in the leadership that it has established for itself and speak on the issues before it. Thank you, comrades.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Microphone No. 2, please.



Comrade EDMUND NEK (Post 8787—Texas). Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I would just like to add to what has been said by the other speakers. In response to Fred Juarbe, I would like to call your attention to Resolution 676, which we have already adopted.

I would like to read the caption Conduct Review of Policy and Decision-Making Process in Department of Labor as it Affects Veterans. We are answering you, Mr. Juarbe, we are concerned on the Department of Labor, and that addresses that. This review of that policy will make it better.

I am also disturbed because the subcommittee on employment matters on Sunday met and no one from Washington spoke against it. There were 15 resolutions that were proposed and they were provided by 14 different Departments. They came from below. They didn't come from the top down. No. 651 came from the top down. All the other 14 came from the bottom up. Thank you very much.

Comrade JOHN BURNS (Post 2097—Connecticut). I was a member of the subcommittee that considered this resolution and after a lengthy discussion we rejected it. I wasn't the one that made the motion to reject this resolution.

I was around when Fred Juarbe first became a member of our Washington office. I was then attending the Mid-Winter Officers' Seminars. I, too, have had extensive experience in Veterans Affairs and I am the Director of the Veterans Center in Connecticut at the present time.

It was after lengthy technical information that we voted to reject this. Certainly, I respect the opinions of our Commander-in-Chief and the opinions of Fred Juarbe. I also respect the knowledge and background of our Past Commanders-in-Chief John Mahan and Chief Rainwater, who gave you their extensive backgrounds in this field.

Without belaboring this issue, the veterans of this country would be very well served to wait and consider. Let the new Department of Veterans Affairs prove itself, and we can always come back at a later date. I urge this Convention to reject No. 651.

Comrade P. O. ELIRONDO (Post 3277—New Mexico). Commander-in-Chief Rivers, I am P. O. Elirondo from Post 3277, Carlsbad, New Mexico. New Mexico is part of the United States. Don't forget that. We have heard a lot of people very eloquently tell us to do this and do that.

When I came here, this room was full of delegates, and slowly and surely we are losing them because we are discussing something that cannot be ended today. We should have sense enough to realize that the people that were on the committee did the best they could.

We also must realize that the VA Administration that we have had before did the best they could, not because we don't have good leaders, but we have people that don't care except when they are at a Convention. Everybody wants to give their opinion. I have no opinion.

I am just a delegate from the State of New Mexico that is not even considered part of the United States. However, I have had feelings about veterans since 1943 when I lost a leg in the service of this great country of ours. I have no regret. The only regret I

have is that people do not care until it has touched them and until they feel like they might be touched.

My feeling is we have wasted too much time. We have a wonderful organization. We also have a cabinet level Veterans Administrator. We have a Secretary that will sit there and answer the questions. However, give him a chance to learn the ropes first. Let's wait and see. We have waited years.

Let's wait a year and give this man a chance to show us that he will or he will not be for us. Let us quit arguing and vote whatever you feel is right. Let us vote now because we are losing people one by one.

Comrade PETER PUENTES (Post 10209—Florida). I think we have heard all the debate we need. I move the previous question.

Comrade GLEN GARDNER (Post 3339—Texas). I second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion on the floor that we end the debate and move the previous question. All in favor will say "aye"; all opposed "no". The resolution is before you, Resolution 651. The motion on the floor is to reject Resolution 651.

The subcommittee recommended rejection and the full committee recommended adoption. The motion is for rejection. All in favor of rejecting No. 651 will say "aye"; all against will say "nay". Resolution No. 651 is rejected.

Let me compliment all of you on the high level of debate we have had. That is indeed VFW in action. Is there anything further from the committee?

Chairman J. P. COCKRILL. There is a list of resolutions rejected. I will read the resolutions rejected and the reason for rejection.

- No. 619, Smoking, rejected in favor of Resolution 718.
- No. 621, Military Personnel/Medical Records, rejected in favor of Resolution 717.
- No. 636, Homeless Veterans, rejected in favor of Resolution No. 656.
- No. 653, Oppose Transfer of Veterans Employment and Training (VETS) to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This was rejected in favor of 651.
- No. 655, Expand PTSD Treatment Program, rejected in favor of 693.
- No. 659, Amend Means Test Income Thresholds, rejected in favor of 685.
- No. 660, Amendment to U.S. Code, Title 38, Chapter 41 and 20 CFR 652 To Include Employment Preference for Active Members of National Guard Units and U.S. Armed Forces Reserve Components, rejected in favor of Resolution 648.
- No. 661, Opposition To Move VETS Under VA, rejected in favor of 651.
- No. 662, Unemployment Compensation for Recently Separated Veterans, rejected in favor of 658.
- No. 667, Refrain From Considering Disability Compensation as Property of the Marriage and Divorce Settlements, rejected since the United States Supreme Court has ruled on this issue.
- No. 668, Abolishment of the Means Test, rejected since 95 percent of veterans fall in Category A.
- No. 669, Petition the Congress and the President of the United States To Enact Legislation Allowing Taxpayers To Donate Money for the Benefit of American Veterans, rejected. VA benefits are entitlements and thus should be appropriated by Congress rather than donations by the American people.
- No. 671, Oppose Transfer of VETS to Department of Veterans Affairs. This was rejected in favor of 651.
- No. 672, Oppose the Transfer of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Employment and Training, rejected in favor of 651.
- No. 679, Prevent Absorption of Veterans Employment and Training Service Into U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, rejected in favor of 651.
- No. 680, Changes of Dates of Eligibility for Vietnam Veterans, rejected in favor of 641.
- No. 683, Enact Legislation To Compensate American Veterans, rejected as not feasible.

No. 687, Support Adequate Health Care for U.S. War Veterans, rejected in favor of 631.

No. 689, Psychotic Disorder Compensation, rejected in favor of 616.

No. 690, Military Personnel/Medical Records, rejected in favor of 717.

No. 695, Reserve Retirement, rejected in favor of Resolution 620.

No. 699, Veterans Employment Right, rejected.

No. 703, Parents Dependency and Indemnity Compensation House Bound Benefits, rejected in favor of Resolution 602.

No. 704, Military Retirement Pay and Veterans Disability Compensation, rejected in favor of 603.

No. 708, Medal of Honor Burial Transportation Entitlements, rejected in favor of Resolution 657.

No. 709, Veterans Preference for Employment in State and Federal Government Funded Jobs, rejected since the thrust of the resolution is already covered under the law.

No. 711, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Compensation, rejected in favor of Resolution 610.

No. 712, Survivors Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, rejected in favor of 617.

No. 713, Military Personnel/Medical Records, rejected in favor of 717.

No. 714, Make Compensation Assistance Available to Agent Orange Victims at the VAMC in Alexandria, Louisiana, rejected since it is not feasible.

No. 719, Provide Veterans Pension Based on Service Outside Continental Limits of the United States, rejected because it is not feasible.

No. 725, Support VETS Programs—LVER/DVOP and Provide Funds, rejected in favor of 601.

No. 726, Reauthorization of the Veterans Job Training Act, rejected in favor of Resolution 678.

No. 728, Medical Care for War Veterans, rejected since Congress already provides benefits and we have a need, where the VFW has strongly supported.

No. 729, Provide for Preferential Services to Veterans in JTPA Program, rejected in favor of Resolution 650.

No. 730, Oppose Moving Veterans Employment Programs to the Department of Veterans Affairs, rejected in favor of Resolution 651.

No. 731, Employment Service Policy, rejected in favor of No. 666.

No. 732, Oppose Waiver of Military Retired Pay, rejected in favor of Resolution 603.

No. 733, Burial Plot Allowance, rejected in favor of Resolution 611.

No. 734, Provide Pensions for World War I Veterans, rejected in favor of Resolution 638.

Resolution 741, Enact Legislation Authorizing Veterans Living in Mexico VA Medical Services, rejected since asking for special treatment for a very few veterans.

No. 742, Authorize VA Medical Treatment for Veterans of Squadron 201 of the Mexican Army Air Corps, rejected since the group of veterans discussed are neither U.S. citizens or veterans of U.S. Armed Forces.

No. 743, Oppose Transfer of VETS to Department of Veterans Affairs, rejected in favor of 651.

No. 744, Restore and Implement Funding for VA Medical Care, rejected in favor of Resolution 631.

No. 746, Civilian Award of Purple Heart, rejected in favor of Resolution 641.

No. 747, Oppose Transfer of Veterans Employment and Service to the Department of Veterans Affairs, rejected in favor of 651.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS, I move the adoption of the committee report.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. You have heard the list of resolutions to be rejected or recommended for rejection by the committee. As most of you know, the committee rules provide if there is not a motion to set aside or to adopt one of the resolutions, then they fail.

Microphone No. 2.

Comrade GLEN GARDNER (Post 3389—Texas). I would ask that Resolution No. 741 be set aside.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. No. 741 is set aside.

Microphone No. 3, please.

Comrade JOHN BURNS (Post 2097—Connecticut). Commander-in-Chief RIVERS, I ask to set aside 659. Earlier the Chairman of the committee moved the adoption of one, and that was approved with an amendment, and I would ask that that be set aside.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. We will set aside 659. You can't set aside one that has been approved.

Comrade JOHN BURNS (Post 2097—Connecticut). I ask for reconsideration, because I was near the microphone and I wasn't recognized when 685 was passed. You are setting aside 659, but actually it is in reference to 685 that passed.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. I have set aside 741 and 659. After we have set aside all the resolutions, if you want to bring before the floor a motion to reconsider, that will be the time to do it. That is out of order at this time. Are there any other resolutions to be set aside?

Now, back to Microphone No. 3. Do you have a motion?

Comrade JOHN BURNS (Post 2097—Connecticut). Yes, Chief. Resolution 659, I am looking for it in the book, Amend Means Test Income Thresholds.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. I will call No. 659 before the body and ask the Chairman to read the "Resolved" portion of 659.

Chairman J. P. COCKRILL. 659 reads:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition Congress to amend the Means Test Income Thresholds according to the cost of living and those areas already recognized by the VA as in need of premium and/or bonus wages for certain VA employees and allow higher income levels for veterans in need of hospital treatment and/or non-service-connected VA premium benefits in those same areas.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. You have heard the "resolved" portion of 659. Is there a motion to adopt 659 and put it before the delegates for the purpose of debate?

Comrade JOHN BURNS (Post 2097—Connecticut). I move we adopt 659.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion that we adopt 659. Is there a second to that motion? Is there a second to that motion?

Comrade GLEN TUEKSURRY (Post 10369—Connecticut). Commander-in-Chief, my name is Glen Tueksbury from Post 10369, Connecticut. I would like to second that motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion and a second that we adopt Resolution 659. Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion?

Comrade JOHN BURNS (Post 2097—Connecticut). The amendment that I propose is that:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the formula for determining the amount of money granted for non-service-connected pension be adjusted to reject the cost of living differential by cost of residence.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrade, I can't repeat your amendment. The Parliamentarian reminds me the motion on the floor is to approve the resolution. That amendment would be out of order and the proper procedure would be to reject it and bring it back up and then ask that we reconsider it, and then propose the amendment.



The motion on the floor now is to approve 659. The committee recommendation was to reject 659. It was rejected in favor of 685 that has already been adopted. The Chairman says that in the opinion of the committee it was a stronger and better resolution and accomplishes basically what you are trying to accomplish by the amendment.

Comrade JOHN BURNS (Post 2097—Connecticut). I agree, but I wanted to make an amendment to make it a stronger resolution. You have indicated that maybe I will have to reconsider that.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrade, what I am telling you is 659 was rejected because 685 is the same amendment with stronger language and incorporates most of the language that you are asking for, is the way I understand it. We have already adopted this. So we didn't need a second one because it is the same thing.

Comrade JOHN BURNS (Post 2097—Connecticut). I wanted to put a amendment to that original one we adopted, but I never got recognized at the time. The Chairman of the committee agreed to recognize me during this debate.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The motion is out of order. Is there any further discussion on No. 659? Hearing no further discussion, we will now vote. The committee recommendation was to reject No. 659 in favor of 685. The motion on the floor is to adopt No. 659.

All in favor of adopting 659 will say "aye"; those opposed say "no". No. 659 failed.

No. 741, will you read the "resolved", Mr. Chairman.

Chairman J. P. COCKRILL. [Reading]:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that legislation be presented and enacted authorizing veterans living in Mexico to be given priority for medical services as outlined under Section 17.60g of the Federal Regulations.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a motion to adopt 741?

The Chair recognizes Glen Gardner at Microphone No. 2.

Comrade GLEN GARDNER (Post 3389—Texas). I move we adopt Resolution 741.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there a second?

Comrade PETER PUENTES (Post 10209—Florida). I second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion properly seconded that we adopt Resolution No. 741 captioned "Authorize Veterans Residing in Mexico Prior Medical Services." Is there any discussion on the motion?

Comrade GLEN GARDNER (Post 3389—Texas). The Chairman of this committee indicated the reason it was rejected was there were few veterans in Mexico, and that this would give special treatment to those living in Mexico. Those statements are incorrect.

There are thousands of U.S. Veterans living in the State of Mexico. We have just formed four new Posts in Mexico and two others are being worked on, and we have got many veterans in the country of Mexico.

The code for treatment of veterans does allow for special treatment for veterans living in other foreign countries, other than Mexico, so we are doing nothing but asking the Veterans of the United States Armed Services who now reside in the country of

Mexico be treated as veterans that live in France, Germany and other foreign countries that are retired and receive medical treatment.

This is the reason we have asked for adoption of this resolution, Commander-in-Chief.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. I was going to ask the Subcommittee Chairman who considered the resolution to explain the discussion that the committee had.

Past Commander-in-Chief H. R. RAINWATER. Thank you, Commander-in-Chief. Resolution 741, it was the opinion of the committee, and we carefully studied this resolution, if you will look at the meat of the resolution, where they address Section 17.36, the provisions of 17.36 of the Federal Regulations is mentioned, and then they further mention another section, 17.60g of the Federal Regulations.

Comrades, Regulation 17.36, and I will not read it in its entirety or go into much detail, that is the hospital care and medical services in foreign countries other than the Philippines. Now, it sets out exactly how eligibility will be established for our veterans that are residing abroad.

17.60g is talking about Vietnam veterans, those living abroad would receive the same measures that veterans in our country. We felt, in the committee, that we should not support any other concept except what is contained in 17.36.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you. Is there any other discussion or debate on Resolution 741?

I recognize Comrade Gardner for his second appearance.

Comrade GLEN GARDNER (Post 3389—Texas). I will keep it under two minutes. I would just relate one thing, Commander-in-Chief. We feel that veterans who served their country, no matter where they are living, deserve to have medical treatment and deserve to have equal medical treatment, whether in or out of the country. Thank you.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there any other discussion? Hearing none, we will now vote on Resolution No. 741. The motion is to adopt Resolution 741. The committee recommendation was to reject.

All in favor of the adoption of Resolution 741 entitled "Authorize Veterans Residing in Mexico Prior Medical Services" will let it be known by saying "aye"; those opposed "nay". The "nays" have it. The resolution lost.

Mr. Chairman, do you have anything else to come before the delegates?

Chairman J. P. COCKRILL. I would like to thank the delegates for this long, drawn-out committee report, and a special thanks to Cliff Olson, Past Commander-in-Chief, for his assistance and all the Chairmen of the Subcommittees. I thank you one and all.

Past Commander-in-Chief WASYLIK. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I would like to have Resolution No. 679 set aside. The reason I am asking for that is when we had our subcommittee meeting on Sunday we voted to reject 651 and we voted to endorse 679 in place of the other seven resolutions. That is why I bring it up.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The committee has reported. If you want to reconsider, then you have the right to tell me at this point

which resolution you want to reconsider, and it takes a majority vote to get it back on the floor. Are you asking to reconsider the resolution?

Past Commander-in-Chief WASYLIK. I am asking for reconsideration of No. 679.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion on the floor to reconsider this body's action as it deals with Resolution 679. Is there a second to that motion to reconsider?

Comrade WILLIAM STIEFVATER (Post 6498—Wisconsin). I second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Resolution 679 was rejected, and now comes before you on a motion to reconsider. Those in favor of reconsideration of 679 will say "aye"; those opposed say "no". The "nays" have it. The motion to reconsider is lost.

Is there anything else to come before this body from your committee, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman J. P. COCKRILL. No, Commander-in-Chief.

Comrade JOHN BURNS (Post 2097—Connecticut). As in regards to the agreement I had with the Chairman prior, there has been some misunderstanding and 685 was moved for adoption. That deals with the Means Test. This resolution passed. I was in the majority, and it deals with the Means Test for hospital treatment.

My amendment deals with the Means Test for non-service-connected pension benefits by geographical areas. If we are going to talk about the hospitals having a Means Test, the VA paying bonus for doctors and nurses—

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrade, the committee has reported. The only way you can get a resolution back on the floor is to tell me what number it is and ask for reconsideration.

Comrade JOHN BURNS (Post 2097—Connecticut). The title of the resolution, Commander-in-Chief, is Cost of Living Adjustment to the Means Tests, Resolution 685.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Are you moving that we reconsider our action on Resolution 685?

Comrade JOHN BURNS (Post 2097—Connecticut). Yes, I am, Chief.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there a second to the motion to reconsider this action as it relates to Resolution 685?

Comrade GLEN TUEKSURRY (Post 10369—Connecticut). Commander-in-Chief, my name is Glen Tueksburry, Post 10369, from Connecticut. I will second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion and a second that we reconsider Resolution 685 captioned "Cost of Living Adjustment to the Means Test", which has been previously adopted by this body, as amended.

All in favor of reconsideration of Resolution 685, please say "aye"; those opposed to reconsideration please say "no". The "nays" have it. The motion to reconsider fails.

At this time I would like to call for the Report of the Committee on General Resolutions. I will call on the Chairman R. D. "Bulldog" Smith, for that committee report.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

Past Commander-in-Chief R. D. SMITH. Commander-in-Chief and Members of the Committee, at the outset I wish to thank you, Commander-in-Chief, for the appointment to Chair the General Resolutions Committee.

Also I want to thank Past Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab for the assistance he provided the Chairman of this committee, and my sincere appreciation to the members of the staff for the assistance they rendered to the committee. And last but not least, a special thanks to the committee members for your sincere interest and participation during the committee meetings.

Commander-in-Chief and delegates, we had 46 resolutions presented to the General Resolutions Committee. Thirty-seven of these were voted out for approval. Two were amended, two for approval as amended. Six were rejected, and one was rejected in favor of another resolution.

I will read the resolutions that the committee recommended for approval at this time.

- Resolution No. 301, Recognize the Women Who Served in the Vietnam War.
- Resolution No. 302, All Military Women Memorial.
- Resolution No. 304, Subpoena Jane Fonda To Answer Charges of Treason.
- No. 308, Oppose Changing the Smithsonian Museum Display Policy.
- Resolution No. 311, Concerning Parking Fees at Arlington National Cemetery.
- No. 314, Memorial To Honor Those Killed in the Invasion of Grenada.
- No. 315, Display of POW/MIA Flag at U.S. Post Offices.
- No. 316, Preserve the U.S.S. *Hornet* as a National Historical Monument.
- No. 317, American War Veterans Relief Association Class Action Suit.
- No. 318, U.S. Postmaster General Designation of POW/MIA Postage Stamp.
- No. 319, Placing of World War II Japanese Submarine at Site of the U.S.S. *Arizona* Memorial.
- No. 320, Equalize Social Security Benefits.
- No. 321, Protect Citizens' Rights To Bear Arms.
- No. 323, Reaffirm Our Right To Own and Bear Arms.
- No. 324, Support Special Isotope Separation Facilities at Idaho National Engineering Laboratory.
- No. 328, Support Congressional Proposal To Establish World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.
- No. 329, Unfair Surtax.
- No. 330, U.S. Postal Service To Issue Stamp in Recognition of U.S. Servicemen Listed as POW/MIAs.
- No. 332, Commendation of Harley-Davidson Motor Company.
- No. 333, Request Action Regarding Actress Jane Fonda.
- No. 334, Endorse Efforts of the Atomic Library and Technology Foundation To Develop the American Park at Independence, Missouri.
- No. 335, Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988, House Resolution 2470.
- No. 336, Catastrophic Medical Coverage.
- No. 337, Reassembly of Japanese Two-Man Mini Submarine.
- No. 338, Discriminatory Financing of the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act, Public Law 100-360.
- No. 339, Designate Kansas City Union Station as a National Monument and War Museum.
- No. 340, Oppose Transfer of Japanese Submarine to U.S.S. *Arizona* Memorial.
- No. 341, Adjust the Inequities in Social Security.
- No. 342, Keep Japanese Mini Sub Out of Pearl Harbor.
- No. 343, Issue First Day Commemorative Stamp Honoring 125th Anniversary of Memorial Day.

The following resolutions were amended.

- No. 307, Peyronies Syndrome.
- Resolution No. 305, Denounce Jane Fonda's Movie, "Union Street," was amended. In the third "Whereas", add after "citizenship" the following: "AND, NOW,



THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we denounce further moving-making activities which star Jane Fonda, known to have been a consort of an enemy of the United States Government during an act of war."

No. 327 was approved as amended, and in the caption called Support Erection of the Armed Forces Monument at the Entrance Area of Arlington National Cemetery as a Memorial to Honor our Armed Forces, in the caption change the word "Armed" to "Armored".

And in the first "Whereas" clause, the fourth sentence, change "Armed" to "Armored", and the second "Whereas Resolved" change "Armed" to "Armored". In the last "Be It Resolved," change "Armed" to "Armored".

Commander-in-Chief, I recommend approval of the resolutions.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion on the floor that we approve the resolutions and the resolutions as amended, just read by Past Commander-in-Chief Smith. Is there a second?

Comrade GENE MANFREY (Post 6827—Florida). I second it.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there any discussion or any requests for set asides?

Comrade JERRY MELIKHEIM (Post 4666—Colorado). I am a veteran of the Korean War and I would like No. 301 to be set aside. I would prefer that it be rejected.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Resolution 301 is set aside.

Comrade GENE MANFREY (Post 6827—Florida). I would like Resolutions 319 and 342 set aside.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Are there any other set asides?

Comrade KENNETH NELSON (Post 1273—South Dakota). We have quite a number of amendments in this relating to Jane Fonda and I am in complete sympathy with the intent of these. But every time the VFW opposes Jane Fonda, she gets \$10 million worth of free publicity in the newspaper. That really bothers me.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. You are not asking for anything to be set aside?

Comrade KENNETH NELSON (Post 1273—South Dakota). Just that she benefits from our opposition in a sense.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Are there any other requests for set asides? Are there any other requests for set asides with the exception of 301, 319 and 342? The motion on the floor is that we accept the resolutions that have been recommended by the committee.

All in favor let it be known by saying "aye"; all those opposed. The motion carries.

Let's go back to Resolution 301. Will you read the "Resolved" portion of that, Mr. Chairman.

Past Commander-in-Chief R. D. SMITH. Resolution 301, the "Resolved" portion is:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we continue to support the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project as a national project, to honor all servicewomen who served during the Vietnam War, which will complete the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Interior, the National Capitol Planning Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts, and Congress, if necessary, be encouraged to approve the needed land at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial site in Washington, D.C., for the addition of a statue depicting a woman veteran.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there a motion on the floor to adopt Resolution No. 301 for the purpose of bringing it to the floor for proper debate? Is there a motion to adopt Resolution 301?

Comrade F. F. MAGRUDER (Post 7825—Washington). Commander-in-Chief, I am a Korean veteran. I see this as giving special treatment—

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Let me interrupt you for a second. We need a motion of some kind before we begin debate. I have called for Resolution 301.

Comrade F. F. MAGRUDER (Post 7825—Washington). I move adoption of Resolution 301.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there a second to adoption of Resolution 301?

Comrade GENE MANFREY (Post 6827—Florida). I second it for debate.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion on the floor that we adopt Resolution 301.

The Chair recognizes Microphone 1 for debate.

Comrade F. F. MAGRUDER (Post 7825—Washington). Commander Rivers, when I see this special attention given, I begin to wonder. I understand that women are quite a useful commodity, I would say. We get out there and we help you do it.

I wonder when we give special attention to the Vietnam veteran women, what happens to the World War I women that drove the ambulances, worked for the Red Cross and manned the telephones, the nurses on Corregidor. I know they would appreciate it because they have had no recognition. We are considered to be forgotten vets.

Why are we being manipulated to have a special memorial for the Vietnam veterans? I would like to have that question answered. I am vigorously protecting 301.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Mr. Chairman, will you explain the committee's thought on No. 301?

Past Commander-in-Chief R. D. SMITH. Commander-in-Chief, the committee felt that this is a very important issue for the women of this country, that they be properly recognized, that they have been neglected and, therefore, the committee felt very strongly that this resolution should be adopted.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Ma'am, I might point out we have passed this same resolution for the last four VFW National Conventions in support of the Women in Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Is there any other debate? Is there any other debate?

Hearing none, the motion on the floor is adopt Resolution 301, recognizing the women who served in the Vietnam War. All in favor of adoption of that resolution, please say "aye"; all those opposed say "nay". The "ayes" have it. The resolution does pass.

Resolution No. 319 will be called to the floor. Will you read the "resolved" portion, Mr. Chairman.

Past Commander-in-Chief R. D. SMITH. The title of Resolution No. 319 is Placing of World War II Japanese Submarine at Site of U.S.S. Arizona Memorial.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call on the U.S. National Park Service and any other public and/or private organizations stating our displeasure with this action.

Comrade GENE MANFREY (Post 6827—Florida). Commander-in-Chief, I am asking for an interpretation. It appears that we have a conflict with Resolution 319 and 342.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. We need a motion on the floor to get this in proper posture for debate. Is there a motion that we adopt 319?

Comrade GENE MANFREY (Post 6827—Florida). I move that we adopt Resolution 319.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there a second?

Past Commander-in-Chief R. D. SMITH. I second it.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion and a second on the floor that we adopt Resolution 319. As stated by the Chairman, it deals with the placing of the Japanese Submarine at site of the U.S.S. *Arizona* Memorial.

Comrade GENE MANFREY (Post 6827—Florida). What I was trying to relate on Resolution 319, as the Committee Chairman has the approval, saying that the place of the World War II Japanese Submarine, he says the U.S.S. *Arizona* Memorial.

If you go to 342, it says that you are keeping the Japanese Mini Sub out of Pearl Harbor. I would assume basically that you are talking about two different ships. I am sure that the delegates at this Convention would be very upset at having a Japanese Sub next to the United States *Arizona*, at Pearl Harbor.

It seems to me that both of those are in conflict, and you are approving both of them. Is that correct?

Past Commander-in-Chief R. D. SMITH. That is correct. We are asking for adoption of Resolutions 319 and 337, 340 and 342, and that is opposing any effort to place a Japanese Submarine in Pearl Harbor next to the U.S.S. *Arizona* one.

Comrade GENE MANFREY (Post 6827—Florida). Thank you for the interpretation. I just got the message there. I am in agreement.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you. We will make it clear that the resolutions that have been recommended for adoption all oppose any type of placing of Japanese Submarines in Pearl Harbor or beside the U.S.S. *Arizona*.

Is there any further discussion on No. 319? The committee recommends adoption of 319. The motion on the floor is to adopt. All in favor of the adoption of Resolution 319, please say "aye"; those opposed "no". The "ayes" have it. The resolution does pass.

The Chair will call on the Chairman to read the "resolved" portion of Resolution 342.

Past Commander-in-Chief R. D. SMITH. The title of No. 342 is Keep Japanese Mini Sub out of Pearl Harbor.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition the Congress and the President of the United States to stop the National Park Service and the Arizona Memorial Association from placing the Japanese Mini-Submarine anywhere in Pearl Harbor.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there a motion to adopt No. 342?

Comrade GENE MANFREY (Post 6827—Florida). This does not require a motion. I will withdraw it.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. It does require a motion to adopt.

Comrade GENE MANFREY (Post 6827—Florida). Then I would move we adopt Resolution 342.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there a second?

Past Commander-in-Chief R. D. SMITH. I will second it.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. It has been seconded by Past Commander-in-Chief Smith, Chairman of the committee. Is there any

discussion on Resolution 342? Hearing none, all in favor of adoption of 342, as recommended by the committee please say "aye"; those opposed say "no". The "ayes" have it. It is so ordered.

Past Commander-in-Chief R. D. SMITH. Commander-in-Chief, if you will permit me and the delegates will permit me, I will read the rejections.

VOICE. I have a question. Is it too late to set aside a resolution?

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. If you have one, you can bring it back up on a motion to reconsider.

VOICE. I have a motion to reconsider, then.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Which resolution?

VOICE. It was No. 326. I think that is too broad of a statement to say, anybody that Jane Fonda supports. She supports a lot of people and a lot of different colleges. That is too broad a statement.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion on the floor that we reconsider Resolution 326 captioned "Refrain From Supporting Jane Fonda and Those Whom She Gives Support." We will have the Chairman to read the "Resolved" portion.

Past Commander-in-Chief R. D. SMITH. [Reading]:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that all VFW members pledge to refrain from attending any motion picture or performance in which Jane Fonda appears, or from purchasing any merchandise which provides a profit to this traitor. Furthermore, let us withhold our votes at election time for any candidates who accept campaign contributions from Jane Fonda and let us urge our families, friends and neighbors to follow our example. Let us stand with those who stand for America, and not with those who seek its defeat.

It is pretty strong.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. We adopted Resolution 326, comrades. There is a motion on the floor now to reconsider that. Is there a second to the motion to reconsider? Is there a second? Hearing no second, the motion fails, the motion to reconsider fails.

Past Commander-in-Chief R. D. SMITH. Thank you, Commander-in-Chief. Now, if I can get back over to the ones the committee rejected.

They are Resolution 307, Peyronies Syndrome; Resolution 309, "Get Tough" Policy on Narcotics; Resolution 310, Nuclear Power Plant Safety.

Resolution 312, Recognize the Native Americans Who Served in Vietnam; Resolution 313, Recognize Women Who Served in Vietnam; Resolution 322, Using POW/MIA Bracelet for AIDS Victims; Resolution 345, Health Plan; Resolution 346, 40th Anniversary of Korean Memorial Services, June 25, 1990.

I am sorry. That was a new resolution, Commander-in-Chief, and if I can go back to my sheet, that resolution was voted to be approved. I will deal with the rejections. Those are the rejections, Commander-in-Chief.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrades, you have heard the recommendation of the committee for rejections. Are there any requests for set asides?

Comrade PETER PUENTES (Post 10209—Florida). I would like Resolution 345 set aside.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Are there any other resolutions to be set aside? Hearing none, under the Convention Rules all, with



the exception of No. 345 will be rejected. Please read the "Resolved" portion of No. 345, Mr. Chairman.

Past Commander-in-Chief R. D. SMITH. [Reading]:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars that we initiate and support efforts to establish a National Lottery Fund to the American Health Plan for universal health care and educational opportunities for all Americans.

Commander-in-Chief, the committee feels on that we are not in the lottery business, and we have got VA facilities and doing everything within our power and jurisdiction to keep adequate funding for our VA medical facilities and because this is for all Americans, we would be endorsing a lottery, the committee didn't feel this was the proper thing for the VFW to be getting into to fund a national lottery.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there a motion to adopt Resolution 345?

Comrade PETER PUENTES (Post 10209—Florida). I make that motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there a second to the motion?

Comrade GENE MANFREY (Post 6827—Florida). I second it.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The motion has been properly seconded. It is now ready for debate on 345.

I recognize the comrade at Microphone No. 2.

Comrade PETER PUENTES (Post 10209—Florida). I just spent two days writing this speech up, and I see that most of our members are gone. But I would like to inform you of not only one way but two to resolve this.

We have a problem in this country, and I know that it sounds like a lot of you sitting out there are tired, but hear me out. This is the first real opportunity I have had to talk to a large veterans group about this subject, a National Health Program.

We know the VA system by law does not have to take care of non-service-connected veterans unless they fall in a certain group, A, B, C, and we know that the service-connected are not given the treatment they should be getting, and we know that the senior citizens, who many are veterans, are not being treated properly.

We know we cannot go to a hospital on our own knowing we have no insurance. We ask for money for food to help countries overseas and the nations that have a National Health Program, but we cannot help our own. We have no National Health Program in the United States of America.

We are the only industrial country besides South Africa that does not have one. Let South Africa stand alone on their statistics. We, the United States of America, the powerful and rich country say we cannot afford to take care of our own because of the financial problems, that it is too expensive.

Let me tell you it is not too expensive to send space ships out in space, it is not too expensive to go into outer space and Star Wars is not too expensive. One or two trips yearly to the moon could probably pay for a National Health Program.

I am not against national defense or against space programs, because we need both programs. We have the best of both and we appreciate it. What good is it to us now and in the future? We get

mail from National Headquarters and the Washington, D.C. office of the VFW, on how we basically care for our veterans.

Our veterans defended our nation so we could see our loved ones and the civilian population was not harmed by wars. We now should be standing together and see that all veterans, whether service-connected or not service-connected, and all U.S. citizens that we have fought to protect should now be taken care of with our National Health Program for all.

Believe me, I know the United States and the VFW is the greatest country and organization in the world, barring none. We should stick together on this issue. Together there is not anything that we can't accomplish.

Let it be said that the VFW does not only care for its veterans but also the people. The VFW should come to the forefront and, as we say, the VFW cares for all its people and always will be the leader of all of the organizations, and especially of the veterans, to say that we support the National Health Program for all which can be paid for by numerous ways.

I will give the different ways it can be paid for. This was just put in, that it would be a lottery. That is one way this can be paid for. The other ways is by employees. This would be monies that companies pay to private insurance companies.

Medicare, public health care, active duty hospitals, the city hospitals, the county hospitals, these can be combined with the lottery. It could be any combination of a number of things. These are just examples of many possible ways to fund this program.

Regardless of how it would be handled, the time is for us to take the lead and decide the program for veterans and all Americans. Let me tell you, Agent Orange, the way it is going now is a farce. The POW situation is being treated as a joke. Korea is another farce. Thirty-six years of peace and still there.

We were all told we would be told the truth on all these subjects. The Supreme Court rules that the flag can be burned and whatever. This is a decision of our government. This is the way the government takes care of our veterans and our nation.

All I ask, this will not hurt, but give it a chance in the VA system. All I ask is that the VFW support this resolution and push it through our government. Thank you very much.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there any other discussion on Resolution No. 345?

Comrade RONALD KOBELUCK (Post 3579—Illinois). I commend our comrade from Florida, but this resolution is a big can of worms. Senator Kennedy, from Massachusetts, in our Congress has presented National Health Care Programs in the past and they have been defeated.

The idea of taking a national lottery, the idea he has is fine, but the method he is going about them, I oppose. I stand in opposition to it.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you. Any other discussion? Seeing no others at the microphone, there is a motion and a second on the floor that we overturn the committee's decision and adopt Resolution 345 dealing with "BE IT RESOLVED, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, that we initiate support efforts to establish a national lottery to fund American

Health Plan for universal health plan and educational opportunities for all Americans," putting the VFW in the lottery business.

All those in favor of adopting Resolution 345, please say "aye"; those opposed say "no". The "nays" have it. The resolution fails.

Is there anything further to come from the Committee on General Resolutions at this time?

Past Commander-in-Chief R. D. SMITH. I have one last resolution that was presented after the committee had an opportunity to discuss it. I will read the "resolved" if I may. This is Resolution 346.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the 90th National Convention of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we do hereby declare June 25, 1990, as the 40th Anniversary of Korean Memorial Day and urge the Congress of the United States to make a similar declaration.

Commander-in-Chief, I move adoption of the resolution.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion on the floor that we adopt Resolution 346, recognizing the 40th Anniversary of the Korean War, June 25, 1990. Is there a second?

Comrade GENE MANFREY (Post 6827—Florida). I second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The motion has been moved and seconded. Is there any discussion? The motion is to adopt Resolution No. 346.

Comrade CHELBANNA (Post 8547—California). Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I am in support of Recommendation No. 346. I think we should adopt it.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The comrade stands in support of 346. Is there any other discussion? Hearing no other discussion, all in favor of adoption of Resolution 346, let it be known by saying "aye"; those opposed. The "ayes" have it. Resolution 346 is adopted.

Past Commander-in-Chief R. D. SMITH. Commander-in-Chief, this completes the resolutions that were presented to this committee. May I ask that the committee be discharged.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Yes. Thank you again for chairing this committee. Thanks to you and your committee for a job well done.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrade Sergeant-at-Arms, prepare the room for the Closing Ceremonies.

[Whereupon, National Chaplain Hosmer gave the Benediction.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrades, we now stand in recess until 9:00 o'clock in the morning. Thank you very much for your patience and the way you have conducted yourselves today.

[Whereupon, the meeting was recessed at 1:45 o'clock p.m.]

## THIRD BUSINESS SESSION

THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 24, 1989

[The meeting was called to order at 9:00 o'clock a.m., with Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter G. Hogan, presiding.]

### CALL TO ORDER

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. We are ready to begin this session of business of the 90th National Convention. Sergeant-at-Arms, will you prepare the room for the opening of business.

[Whereupon, Sergeant-at-Arms Sarver led the Convention in the Salute to the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance.]

[Whereupon, National Chaplain Hosmer gave the Opening Prayer.]

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. We will now have the Report of the Credentials Committee.

### REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Comrade RICHARD TROMBLA (Post 1174—Kansas). This is a temporary report of the Credentials Committee at the close of business last night. Delegate strength, 18,759; Department Commanders 53; National Officers 35; Past Commanders-in-Chief 24. We have a grand total, as of last night, of 18,871. Commander-in-Chief, this is a temporary report.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. Adjutant General Howard Vander Clute has some announcements he would like to make.

[Whereupon, Adjutant General Vander Clute made several announcements.]

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. The Commander-in-Chief and the National Officers asked me to briefly explain what occurred at the Joint Opening Session on Monday when many of our delegates were denied seats in the Rotunda, Las Vegas Convention Center. There were amply seats in the hall.

The Secret Service, in a reversal of their original planning, closed off four sections in the upper deck of the arena. Those areas were on a peripheral with the speaker, Vice-President Quayle. Those seats were slightly behind the stage from which he spoke.

I hope that those of you who were denied entry will understand that this was not a decision of the Convention Corporation, National Officers of the Veterans of Foreign Wars or the Convention and Visitors Bureau of the City of Las Vegas.

We protested loudly and longly, but I think that you understand that the Secret Service, in their decision to do what is necessary to protect the Vice-President, prevailed. I hope, although this may not



be an adequate explanation to some of you who were denied entry, that you will understand what happened.

I have a telegram that comes from a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars who, had he been present this morning, would have attended his fifty-eight consecutive National Convention. Only because of his frail health is he not here today.

Let me read the telegram. It is addressed to the Commander-in-Chief.

Dear Commander Larry: Congratulations on a fine year. Looking forward to your assumption of duties in Washington. There is no finer man than Cooper Holt, and you will have a hard time following him. But I know you can do it.

Convey my best wishes to the assembled membership. I regret that I cannot be in attendance after 57 consecutive years. And to Commander-Elect Hogan, we will be proud to serve. Our flag must remain high and in front of all others.

This telegram is signed by Chester J. Koch, Commander, Stars and Stripes Post 1415, who is also a member of the National Security Committee.

You folks who have attended National Conventions before will remember that Chester, on many occasions, stood at the microphone and debated issues that concerned the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and traditionally he would ask that the delegates recognize the performance of the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms.

In view of the fact that he is unable to attend this Convention, let me speak in his behalf. The National Sergeant-at-Arms, George Sarver, and the Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms who work this Convention, obviously from time to time aggravate members of the delegation.

They are constantly seeking your support to maintain order so that those speaking can be heard. That doesn't always enhance their image with individual members.

But they have a job to do, and they do it with a great deal of loyalty and dedication. I ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to assemble the Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms in front of this station so the delegates attending this Convention can express their gratitude.

[Whereupon, the assembly extended a prolonged rising ovation to the Sergeants-at-Arms.]

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. At this time the Chair will recognize the Adjutant Quartermaster of the Department of Texas for the purpose of a motion.

The Chair recognizes Microphone No. 2.

Comrade GLEN GARDNER (Post 3359—Texas). I ask that Resolution 741 be reconsidered by this body for the purpose of an amendment to the "Resolved" section.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. Is there a second?

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief JAMES KIMERY (Post 9354—New Mexico). I would like to second that motion, please.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. The motion has been made and seconded to reconsider Resolution 741. As you know, it takes a majority to bring it back on the floor. All those in favor say "aye"; those opposed "no". The motion is lost.

Sergeant-at-Arms, will you please escort Diane Evans up to the podium. Diane, will you stand up wherever you are.

## INTRODUCTION—DIANE CARLSON EVANS

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. Since its inception, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has supported the plan to erect a statue of a woman at the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Washington, D.C. This is a \$1.3 million undertaking, but it has gained the approval of the Congress and the National Capitol Memorial Commission. The project must next gain final approval from the Fine Arts Commission on Design and Exact Placement.

Here to review the situation for us is Diane Carlson Evans who has addressed us at four previous National Conventions on the need to honor the women who served in Vietnam. She is a VFW member from Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and has served as an Army Nurse in Vietnam. It is my pleasure to introduce Diane Carlson Evans.

## REMARKS—DIANE CARLSON EVANS, BOARD LIAISON TO VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS, THE VIETNAM WOMEN'S MEMORIAL PROJECT, INC.

Comrade DIANE CARLSON EVANS. Thank you. Last year in Chicago, I reported to you that the Senate on June 14th of last year had voted in our favor to place a statue of a woman at the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial. At that time, I asked for your help in getting the companion bill in the House passed, where we were having more trouble.

Thousands of you signed our petition, wrote letters, made phone calls, sent telegrams. A lot of you made personal calls to your Congressman. When the VFW gets behind something, our legislators do listen. Thanks to you the final version of our bill to construct a memorial to women who served during the Vietnam War and place it on federal grounds in Washington, D.C., was passed and signed by President Reagan just after Veterans' Day of last fall.

However, as many of you thought that it now was over and we were on our way to place this memorial, it wasn't done yet. The bill was not statue specific and it was not site specific, but it did describe the intent of Congress that it be at the Vietnam Memorial.

The development of the Memorial is now controlled by a law which was passed in 1986 called the Commemorative Works Act. It is a law that protects the integrity of design and limited space of the most prestigious ground in America, the nation's Capitol.

Memorials may be constructed in Area 1, which is the mall, only with a special recommendation of the Secretary of Interior. He must determine that the memorial is of preeminent historical and lasting significance to the nation. Congress must approve that recommendation within 150 days or it is disapproved. The clock starts ticking the day the Secretary signs it.

But after he signs it, there are a lot more reviews. Right now, our recommendation for Area 1, which was voted favorably upon on March 9th of this year, has gone to the Office of Management and Budget, and was just reviewed by the Department of Defense on Monday and passed.

Hopefully, we will have a signature by the Secretary in September when it will go back—believe it or not, it has to go back once again to Congress. We are going to need more legislation. So early this fall, when it is introduced, we would like you to once again call

your Congressmen, remind them of your full support, ask them once again for their support, and of passage by Veterans' Day of this year.

If this sounds like a bureaucratic maze, it is. It is a bureaucratic problem that we can't fix. It is a reality that is hard for us to accept, because it is taking so long, but perhaps it is the supreme test to persevere long enough to the tedious and time-consuming steps as outlined by the Commemorative Works Act.

As you have guessed by now, as I have not talked about the design, and I think that the majority of you here have seen our proposed design, which was a statue by Roger Rodine. The design and the site are two totally separate issues.

Right now we are looking into the site issue, and we have been told if we come in with a preconceived design that will jeopardize our getting a site. That is why we have made the decision for now to put our statue on the shelf. Our commitment will continue for realistic representation of a woman veteran, a statue, and there is talk of a design competition.

These are all things that may be down the road. After the site is secured, we go back again to the Fine Arts Commission, the National Capital Planning Commission and the National Capital Memorial Commission.

If this sounds like a repeat performance of two years ago, it is. In terms of the approval process, it is like starting all over again because Congress gave us a second chance. Down the road, the construction contract and drawings for construction must be submitted for permits.

The official funds to complete construction all have to be verified. Thanks to your support, we have raised over \$1 million, but we have had to raise our budget to \$2 million because of the time delays. We will have a memorial. It is a matter of time and what the final design will be.

The total projected time at this time is 37 to 40 more months. That takes us up to Veterans' Day 1992. We had hoped to have this memorial up in 1986. By law all aspects of the memorial have to be approved within five years after President Reagan signed the bill.

We have until 1993, and we hope we have it up before then. We applaud the success of the other memorials to all women who have served their country, the women in military service to America, which will be at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery.

It is certainly time for two memorials in our nation's capital to honor the devotion of American servicewomen. That kind of devotion needs to be remembered and cherished because it is the effort of what makes our nation strong and unified.

Women are equally responsible for the strength of our nation. We have all learned through blood, sweat and tears, that it really is up to us, the soldiers, to see that we correct the neglect of honor, physical, emotional or spiritual care by our mother nation. The soldier is the nation's conscience.

On behalf of the Project, I would like to thank you for standing beside us. For some of you, it took a while to decide it was a worthy effort and a timely effort, and for those of you who didn't support it in the first place, back in 1985, I hope you have changed your mind because by accepting us as equal members, by acknowledging

our service is worthy of recognition, by standing firmly by us in support of issues specific to women, we have come a long way together when it has never happened before in the history of America.

It is the decision of love of our volunteers who have brought the VFW project from its earliest days and overwhelming obstacles to where we are today. We are the nation's conscience. It is up to us to keep America remembering and keep America strong through that strength that we all gained in war. Thank you very much.

#### VISIT OF LADIES AUXILIARY DELEGATION

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. I am indeed honored to present a very special lady who this year has led the Ladies Auxiliary for the Veterans of Foreign Wars to new and greater heights. She is truly an outstanding lady from the Cornhusker State of Nebraska, and my friendship with her goes back many, many years.

It is indeed an honor and privilege for me to present to you the National President of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Mona Longly, from Nebraska. Let's give her a rousing standing ovation.

[Whereupon, the assembly extended a prolonged rising ovation to President Longly.]

#### REMARKS—LADIES AUXILIARY PRESIDENT MONA LONGLY

President MONA LONGLY. Thank you, Wally. As a member of the Big Ten also, I am very proud that Wally is representing the Big Ten Conference as your Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, soon to be the Commander-in-Chief.

I want to take a few minutes to thank especially the Past Department Commanders who served with me this past year, who were so gracious in spending their time when I made my official visits to their respective Departments. I really did appreciate you coming out to meet me, and for spending time with me when I visited your state.

I think there were only a couple of them that had other obligations that prevented them from being there the entire time of my visit. I think this is great of you to take that time out of your busy schedules. I thank you very much for doing that, plus the fact that you have helped the Ladies Auxiliary to make this Diamond Anniversary an outstanding year, the 75th year of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

I thank you for your support, and for all of your help over the many, many years. I know you are having a great Convention. I hope that you will go home filled with the satisfaction that you have increased not only your knowledge of this organization but appreciation for the time you have given as well.

I would like to ask the Nebraska delegation to please stand. Thank you, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the Department of Nebraska, Commander Alvin Smallfoot, for all of the help and support you have given me over these years through the chairs as a national line officer.

Your dedication not only to me as a National Officer, but also your dedication to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its programs.



How about giving them a nice round of applause, because they are a great Department. [Applause.]

We have been joined by a very distinguished guest. You know, the ladies are always one step ahead of the VFW. The Commander-in-Chief visited the ladies meeting this morning and I beat him back to his own meeting.

It is my pleasure to be at your Convention. I am going to miss this opportunity in the years to come, but it has been an honor and privilege to serve with the greatest Commander-in-Chief that I have had a chance to serve with.

Now, that kind of leaves it open, doesn't it? You are my Commander-in-Chief, Larry, and I appreciate all the help that you have given me. It is a privilege that I have certainly enjoyed being with you and Connie and your family. I thank you so much for allowing me to be a part of your life this year.

As I have said many times, you have certainly been a part of my life over these last three years. You have enriched my life by your knowledge and by your support. I know that you have given of your time and energy to this organization in your day-by-day travel, as I have.

As a remembrance of this great 90th Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, you served the country well as a United States Marine, and because of your efforts and the efforts of all of the veterans we live in a free democracy where we have a choice.

We can live where we want to live, we can be religious and go to the church of our choice. We can speak our thoughts and travel where we want to go. Because of that, I thank you as veterans.

To you, Commander-in-Chief Larry, I present you with this flag of our country, the red, white and blue. You have served it well. You have served our country well, and you have served this organization well.

I am proud to present our beautiful colors and the symbol of the United States of America and all that it represents, and the VFW Flag to you.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrades, it is always a privilege and pleasure to have a chance to have at our meeting the President of the Ladies Auxiliary. For fear my comrades may think I slept in this morning and didn't show up for the President's visit, I want you to know I have been at her meeting and she beat me back.

Madam President, I certainly do appreciate the fact that you are here. Thank you for accepting me so graciously at the ladies' meeting just a few minutes ago. Comrades, I want you to know our Ladies Auxiliary is indeed an asset. I know that comes as no surprise and shock to you that work day-in and day-out with the Auxiliary.

Madam President, I want you to let the ladies know again how very much they mean to us, how important they are and what they do and proud of the commonality and purpose that we share together. It has been a pleasure to serve with you. You have been a gracious National President and over and above that you are a great American and a very fine lady. Thank you, Mona, for all that you do for us.

President LONGLY. I have with me and I would like to introduce my Chief of Staff, Sharon Reidinger. You know, I wouldn't be here today if it was not for my husband, Ron, wherever he is. He is out there somewhere. He is waving.

I had the privilege when the Commander-in-Chief was at our meeting of presenting him a copy of the book we put together giving the history of the Ladies Auxiliary and commemorating our 75th Anniversary. He gave me a pen, and when I opened that pen to sign the book, believe it or not, it was red ink, so I signed it in blood because of my dedication to this organization.

Thank you, Larry, for coming to our Convention and the best of luck to all of you and the best wishes to you in the future. And to you, Connie, you are a great asset not only to this organization, but also to your husband Larry and to your family.

Thank you for your courtesies and may God bless you and your family always. Thank you for allowing me to come before you.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. I know the National President has other important business to attend to, so as she leaves let me take this opportunity to introduce my wife, Connie, who most of you know already. Certainly, Connie, I appreciate all that you have done as well.

How about a nice, warm farewell as the National President leaves. Thank you very much.

#### PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. It is now my distinct pleasure to present a special award to one of our own—someone who has made a real difference in his community and who has spent a great deal of his time helping others.

This comrade has spent 11 years and around 40,000 volunteer hours in the St. Cloud, Minnesota, VA Medical Center in assisting patients, providing recreational outlets and helping out in various professional services.

His efforts have raised over \$100,000 for medical and recreational buildings and for sending children with muscular dystrophy to camp. He also began a church program for VA patients in addition to a community organization funded canteen program.

The local J. C. Penney's store in St. Cloud honored him with its Golden Rule Award for Community Service. When the White House speaks of the need for added volunteerism in our nation, they would do well to model the word volunteer after this man who you see every year here in uniform as one of our outstanding Sergeants-at-Arms.

I am pleased to present this special VFW Certificate of Commendation to Joseph Schirmers of St. Cloud, Minnesota, and the Department of Minnesota.

#### RESPONSE—COMRADE JOSEPH SCHIRMERS

Comrade SCHIRMERS. Comrade Commander-in-Chief and all the people on the dais, my Comrades out there, each and every one of you are my friends. I have been around 29 years. I got a beautiful award this morning, and the award was for my hobby, helping people.

Helping veterans is my hobby. I don't golf, I have no other sport, I don't fish and I don't hunt. My time is spent working for veterans, the man in the bed and the wheelchair. I have problems myself, and I get rid of my problems by going out and helping others.

I don't believe in medicine if you don't have to have it. I believe the best medicine is helping someone else. Therefore, I will continue, and I hope I have another ten years that I can give, to go through the halls of the Veterans Hospital, meeting patients, and taking them out and trying to be of assistance.

We need each of you go do the same thing. We were lucky that the Lord brought us back from where we served our country. Therefore, my time is devoted to helping others.

My wife, that I have been married to for 36 years, and family have stood by me all the time. No matter if I was 14 or 16 hours at the hospital, or working in the community, she was always behind me 100 percent. I never have to worry about coming home and having someone nag me. She was there with welcome arms. I owe much of my life to her.

My foster mother that raised me walked four miles one way to church for 18 months while I was in Korea, praying that I would get back because I was one of her favorite 17 adopted persons.

That is why I want to give my life, every bit of it that I can, and energy to helping others, whether they are veterans or anybody else that I can help. Thank you very much. I appreciate this opportunity and this makes a beautiful day for me.

Now, I want to introduce my lovely wife, Esther. Again, thank you very much. I hope to be back next year to see all of you again.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Before Joe leaves, let me read this Certificate.

Certificate of Commendation awarded to Joseph Schirmers in special recognition and sincere appreciation for your exceptional record, spanning more than 11 years, of volunteer service at the St. Cloud Veterans Administration Medical Center and your outstanding record of community service in the St. Cloud area following your tour in the Korean War as evidenced by your selection this year as the recipient of the J. C. Penney Golden Rule Award and your designation by the readers of The St. Cloud Times in its 1989 listing of "People Who Make A Difference." Your lifetime of compassionate service to veterans and youth exemplifies the purpose of the VFW: "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living."

This has been signed this 24th day of August by myself and the Adjutant General. Joe, congratulations and best wishes from all your VFW comrades throughout the country.

#### SPECIAL PRESENTATION TO COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF RIVERS

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. The next item on our agenda this morning is a special presentation to our Commander-in-Chief Larry Rivers.

For the purpose of making this presentation, may I call to this podium the National Chief of Staff, Bill Procter.

National Chief of Staff PROCTOR. Comrade Commander-in-Chief Larry Rivers, on behalf of your Post and District, I would like to present this picture to you.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, Bill. I also want to thank the members of my Post and members of my State. Thanks for being so supportive over these past years.

Would Comrade Keith Ray from West Virginia please come to the podium? My comrades, this All-American Post Commander, Keith Ray of West Virginia, was unable to make the Awards Luncheon because his flight was delayed.

We would like to take this opportunity to accord All-American Post Commander Ray a very special recognition that we accorded those who earned the highest award for service that we can give to those who serve as our Post Officers.

If you will allow me at this time to introduce to you All-American Post Commander Keith Ray, Post 1064, West Virginia. Keith, congratulations on a job well done.

#### INTRODUCTION OF CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. My comrades, during the past few days we have had the opportunity to hear from the leaders of our country, and we are indeed pleased again to have the opportunity to hear from one of the leaders of this great nation.

Congressman Michael Bilirakis from Palm Harbor, Florida, was first elected to Congress on November 2, 1985, and now is in his fourth consecutive term.

His assignments in the present Congress include membership on the Key House Energy and Commerce Committee and, of course, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, with subcommittee assignments to hospitals and health care, and compensation, pension and insurance.

He also serves as Chairman of the Task Force on the Elderly and a member of the Congressional Task Force on POW-MIAs, as well as numerous other congressional caucuses and task forces. It bears mentioning that in his district he has held many town meetings and has sponsored Congressional Committee Hearings on numerous topics, including veterans' issues in general and the POW-MIA issue.

In January, 1986, Congressman Bilirakis participated in a bipartisan delegation to Vietnam and Laos on behalf of American POWs and MIAs. Since returning to the United States, he has participated in follow-up hearings and has corresponded with the President regarding POW-MIA concerns. Answering this challenge remains one of his top priorities.

A special interest is his work on behalf of military retirees; particularly the elimination of the military retired pay VA compensation offset, that he addressed in the May issue of the VFW magazine.

It is now my distinct honor to present to you a distinguished member of the United States House of Representatives and a true friend to this nation's veterans. A VFW Life Member of Post 1016 in Palm Harbor, Florida, let's welcome Congressman Michael Bilirakis.

[Whereupon, the assembly extended a prolonged rising ovation to Congressman Bilirakis.]



ADDRESS—THE HONORABLE MICHAEL BILIRAKIS U.S. HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES—FLORIDA

Congressman BILIRAKIS. Commander-in-Chief Larry Rivers, other National Officers, Department Commanders, Department Officers, with special acknowledgement to my own Department Commander, my very, very good friend, Peter Puentes, Executive Director Cooper Holt and the many members of the clergy who are in this audience, my Comrades, good morning.

I am pleased and privileged to be here with you today at your 90th National Convention. My wife, Evelyn, and I want to thank you for inviting us to spend this time with you, and for the warm welcome from your National Commander-in-Chief, Larry Rivers, your Executive Director, Cooper Holt, Director of National Legislative Service, Jim Magill, and my fellow Florida veterans, led by State Department Commander Peter Puentes.

You know, Shakespeare once said that praises are our wages and if so, I feel as if I just got a raise! However, considering how the public feels about Congressional pay raises, maybe we can just keep this between you and me!

A friend once told me that if I wanted to make a good speech I should have a good opening and a good closing—and keep them close together! I've always considered that sound advice, but I would like to share some thoughts with you today, thoughts about the American spirit and the system of values each of you served to protect; preserve and promote during your military careers.

We have borne arms many times since fighting the war that created our great nation more than 200 years ago. We have fought on foreign lands and we have fought among ourselves. We have learned there is never any glory in war—only suffering. But we also have learned, given a just and right cause, that we do not lack the courage, dignity and fortitude necessary to defend the age-old principles upon which our country was founded.

I have said many times that it is important for us to display that same determination in our daily lives—in living up to those principles in all that we do, that we live and practice and preach those principles day by day. Otherwise, won't all of that suffering and bravery have been in vain?

And as we talk and think of principles and courage, I consider it important that we recognize the distinction between the level of duty and patriotism we exercise in our daily lives, and the level demonstrated by the American veteran—the ultimate sacrifice resting in the balance. It is the difference between heroes and men who might be brave; between the tested and those who have not yet been tried.

As a second statement, let me share with you a recent happening. I don't know if any of you saw it, but some time ago a couple of well-known national TV reporters were asked an interesting question: In a future war, what would you do if you learned that the enemy troops with which you are traveling were about to launch a surprise attack on an American unit? Would you warn the American troops?

I think I know how you and I would answer that question, but both of these reporters, without hesitation, agreed that getting

ambush footage for the evening news would come before warning the U.S. troops. Can you believe that kind of thinking—putting their jobs before America and American troops? I'll be honest with you and say I just don't understand this kind of thinking, but I do understand the response to this by a U.S. Marine Colonel.

"Two days later the reporters are both walking off my hilltop," he said, "they're 200 yards away and they get ambushed, and they're lying there wounded. And they're going to expect I'm going to send Marines up there to get them . . . but I'll do it." That's America, isn't it? We'll even fight to protect the rights of people with the type of mindset exhibited by those reporters.

The American veteran—and his colleagues and allies around the world—provide us with an example of the difference between these two statements. To understand this distinction, we first have to examine the nature of greatness—the hallmark of heroes—and measure the rest of our deeds against it.

Such an examination provides us with a rather sobering lesson. The real American hero is a vanishing breed, overtaken by well-paid athletes, entertainers and video-media personalities whose flash-in-the-pan lifestyles have upset the public's perception of greatness.

What, we must ask ourselves, is the greatest of any sports "star" against the courage of a young soldier struggling to advance one hellish yard after another through the blood-stained mud of some distant battlefield, where every step in the open invites death and where leadership often is only that voice inside him that urges him on when reason begs him to run?

Do we have our values in order when we would rather press through a screaming crowd to secure the autograph of a successful entertainer than acknowledge the solitary soldier, perhaps a former prisoner of war, sitting alone in a darkened airport or bus terminal—not even offering a friendly word or a warm handshake?

We must always honor those Americans who stood—and stand—for "Fortress Freedom," and who suffered in prison camps or were swept away to a rendezvous with destiny, who gave one more moment than life would allow. Soldier by soldier, those extra moments bought time for a peace-loving world. Their spirit lives in the heart of every patriot—their duty forged a fraternity in this nation that will fight again and again to preserve the dignity of mankind and reaffirm all men's right to self-directed destiny.

It is for those reasons that so many were sacrificed in so many wars and conflicts. Their ultimate contributions vouchsafed a haven for those weary of dictatorships, those for whom freedom was becoming only a covered lamp in the inky night of political darkness. Also, the critics of our foreign policy must have their day, and we have many such critics, don't we? But, it is for them, too, that the American soldier fights.

As all of you certainly are aware, there is a controversy going on right now in Washington, D.C., a controversy about desecration of the American Flag.

Some may deny it, but we are being asked to believe that protecting by law the desecration of the Flag is somehow a test of our commitment to free speech. I've heard it said that allowing the

desecration of the Flag is the best way to prove we believe in equal freedom for those with whom we disagree.

I'll tell you what I say. I say that by protecting our Flag we deny no one the right of free speech or of peaceful political protest. I'll defend the right of anyone to get up and say whatever is on his mind. In fact, by defending the Flag we ensure that this right never will be denied. All we ask is that the Flag be accorded the same respect we offer to those who protest under its freedoms.

If living symbols of freedom and liberty mean nothing, if the ideals and not the evidence are all that matter, why don't we just open up the archives and tear up the Constitution and Declaration of Independence? They're just fading, old pieces of paper, aren't they?

The fact of the matter is that they are much more than that. They have told generations and generations of immigrants seeking a better life—immigrants like my parents and some of yours—that here in America we believe it is an individual's right to choose, to control his own destiny.

In this country, we don't pledge allegiance to a king or a president or even a piece of old parchment. We pledge allegiance to a flag, because its bright stars and bold stripes mean something that no other flag on earth today means: Here in America, the people are the government \* \* \* and for that reason we will always be free.

That is what this nation's veterans have always known, and they have been willing to put aside their lives and answer the call when those freedoms were endangered. Many of them have fought and died to ensure that democracy and freedom would live on. To reduce the Flag to a few yards of cloth is to break faith with America's veterans and all those who made the ultimate sacrifice in its defense.

I strongly commend virtually every Post and every veteran in the country for getting involved on the Flag issue. I also must ask—where have you been all these years, particularly on issues of national security and defense? We can be the greatest lobbying and interest group in the country if we only stay united and get involved at the Post level—as you have on the Flag issue. I'm pleased that the Department of Florida, through State Surgeon, Gene Manfrey, has picked up the flag gauntlet.

As a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee and as a four-year active duty veteran, I take it personally when some individual or some group seeks to attack veterans and the benefits they get \* \* \* and fully deserve. No other group of citizens is as deserving.

That is one reason I always have fought for—and will continue to fight for—the benefits of veterans. That is also what led me to introduce my Bill, H.R. 303, again this year in the 101st Congress.

H.R. 303 would eliminate the provision of a 19th century law that requires a disabled career military veteran to waive the amount of his retired pay equal to the amount of his V.A. disability compensation. In the 100th Congress, H.R. 303 received 246 co-sponsors in the House and the support of 17 national veterans organizations—among them, I'm proud to say, was yours. To date, 256 of my colleagues have co-sponsored H.R. 303.

If any of you aren't familiar with H.R. 303, here are a couple of examples of this inequitable law. Two federal retirees with the same service-connected disability, who have worked the same number of years in federal service, are treated differently because one served all his years in the military and the other served only two years in the military and the remainder in civil service.

In another case, two veterans may both be rated 100 percent service-connected disabled and both receive the same amount of V.A. disability even though one served two years and one served for twenty. The travesty is that the disabled career veteran has had his entire military retirement annuity offset by his V.A. disability compensation. In fact, he is penalized for having dedicated his life to the service of his country in the Armed Forces.

Our retired military, who have made such sacrifices for our country, and whose families have sacrificed so much, should be able to receive compensation for their injuries above their military retired pay. Many service-connected disabled retirees often are unable to get appropriate work to supplement their diminished incomes due to those service-connected disabilities.

Although, I am confident that passage of H.R. 303 is feasible, it will not be easy, primarily because of entrenched opposition to the bill in some parts of the Congress. To complicate matters further, for the first time in the bill's history, it was jointly referred to the Committees on Veterans Affairs and Armed Services, instead of solely to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Although the Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on compensation, pension and insurance held an H.R. 303 hearing last year, the bill never was moved out of committee. We simply must continue our efforts to obtain favorable approval of this legislation.

One of the most important points we must convey is the fact that H.R. 303 does not cost \$2 billion annually as estimated by the Congressional Budget Office. Contrary to the opponents' assertions, the Department of Defense reports that \$762 million is waived annually by service-connected disabled veterans.

And so, how can anyone assert a \$2 billion price tag? And that's without considering the additional dollars to be paid into the treasury through taxes on that retirement pay now waived.

In the Senate, Senator Matsunaga has received lukewarm endorsement of his similar measure, S.B. 563. His "inverse ratio" compromise would establish the right of a disabled military retiree to receive at least some portion of his earned military retirement. In general, the bill would enable those who are the more severely disabled to receive more of their retirement pay.

The veteran who is 100 percent disabled would have to offset none of his military retirement. The veteran who is 80 percent disabled would have to offset the amount equal to 20 percent times his total V.A. disability.

Since there are so few severely disabled veterans who would receive more of their retired pay compared with those rated 30 percent or less, who would waive a majority of their retired pay, this Senate bill has a Congressional Budget Office estimate of only \$200 million.

From an equity standpoint, this compromise would help those who are more severely disabled. This is a fiscally sound bill. It is



not a bill that we should be satisfied with—but its provisions are a first step which hopefully would lead to a complete elimination of the offset.

Unfortunately, Senator Matsunaga was hospitalized recently and was unable to push for the Senate markup. However, I promise that the fight has only begun. I'm getting more and more stubborn and angry, and with your continued support we'll get it done.

After all, each of you here today, and thousands like you across this land, answered when America called. Now it's time for America to answer your call.

You honor me by inviting me here today, but I tell you that it is you here who deserve the honor you have given me \* \* \* you who wore our country's uniform, who served to protect our shores and our way of life.

Thank you, and God bless you and our great country that you have kept free.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. We are fortunate, comrades, to have Mr. Bilirakis with us today. Mrs. Bilirakis, it is nice to have you with us here as well.

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. Sergeant-at-Arms, will you determine if the representatives of the National Home are in the foyer? Also will you see if there is a representative of the Dads of Foreign Service available to make a presentation? You should find him in the foyer, also.

Comrades, we have some important business to transact, so stay with us. We have not been able to locate a representative of the Dads of Foreign Service who wanted to make a presentation this morning; therefore, I will do that on his behalf.

The presentation goes to our Commander-in-Chief, Larry W. Rivers, and reads as follows:

Larry W. Rivers, Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, congratulations on your work for the cause of all veterans through the high office that you now hold. We pledge our continued support for all veterans programs.

This has been signed by the Dads of Foreign Service Veterans of the United States and dated 1988-1989. On behalf of the Dads of Foreign Service, I present this to you.

The second presentation is to Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter G. Hogan. Wally, I have been authorized to make this presentation to you on behalf of the Dads of Foreign Service. It reads:

Walter G. Hogan, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, 1989-1990. Wishing you a successful and prosperous year as VFW National Commander. The Dads of Foreign Service pledge their full support for all VFW programs.

Sergeant-at-Arms, will you escort the representatives of the VFW National Home to this station.

#### INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL HOME REPRESENTATIVES

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrades, give a round of applause to our VFW National Home Officers and the 1990 Buddy Poppy Boy.

## GREETINGS—1990 BUDDY POPPY BOY

STEVE JOHNSON. Hi. Commander, my name is Steve Johnson and I live at the VFW National Home. I live with my mom, my brother and my two sisters in the Maryland Cottage. Before I lived at the National Home, I lived in South Bend, Indiana. My birthday is next week and I will be seven years old. I like to ride my bike and I like to collect VFW pins.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. How about a round of applause for our 1990 Buddy Poppy Boy, Steve Johnson.

Comrades, I would like to call to this station for a few words, the Executive Director of our VFW National Home, Maryjane Peck. Before Maryjane comes to the podium, I want you to know it has been a pleasure this year having had a chance to work with Maryjane at the National Home Board.

I feel very confident when I tell you we are doing good things at your VFW National Home. I am confident we are doing the kind of things that the VFW members would want us to do and in large part that responsibility goes to Maryjane Peck, who is doing an excellent job for us.

## REMARKS BY MARYJANE PECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, VFW NATIONAL HOME

MS. MARYJANE PECK. Thank you, Commander-in-Chief. To all the officers and to all of you, I want to say thank you. It has been my pleasure to be able to work at the National Home since October. It is a wonderful place. It has held a lot of memories for a lot of people for 65 years.

It continues to build memories for the children that live there and the families. Just recently, one of the comrades came to visit his two sons at the National Home. He asked if he could come visit me in my office. He came in and he said, "I am not doing very well. Coming to Michigan, my lungs are filling up and I know I have to have surgery. I have been told that even if I have surgery I may not make it off the table. I am worried about my little boys. They are nine and ten."

I told him what we would be able to do for him at the National Home, that his sons would have a place and a home until they grew up. He asked me if I would be their guardian. I said yes, and that we would be there for him even if he could not be there. He said it would make it easier to go home knowing that the two boys were safe.

After that, I was working with his little guy taking the tar off the nursery floor, and the little boy looked up and said, "You are going to be my guardian. You are going to take care of me." I said, "Yes, I will be there for you." He said, "My dad might die." I said, "I know. That is really scary, isn't it?" He said, "Yeah, but I get to stay here."

That is just one of the stories that currently lives here. We have a father whose wife just passed away about a year ago, who has applied to come to the Home. He was left with three little children, ages two, three and five. They also will be coming for us to help them get on their feet and become a family again.

We had a senior who graduated this year. She is one of eleven children living at the Home. There are seventeen children in her family. Six have already moved on but did not graduate from high school. She is the first in this family to graduate from high school.

She not only graduated, but she graduated with almost a 4.0 average. She did not miss one day of school this year, and she was given a full scholarship from the MOC to attend Michigan State University. Because of you, her life has turned around, and not only her but her whole family.

These are the children that you are supporting, these are the memories that you are giving them. These are your children and you are their families. As one of the children said, the National Home is a place to be safe. In this day and age, we know how important that is to be able to guarantee our children a place to be happy, to grow, to be loved. You are loving them.

The National Home is your home. You have placed your love and your hearts there, and I pledge that I will help you help these kids grow up to be useful citizens of tomorrow. Thank you.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, Maryjane.

We are also pleased to have with us this morning the Vice-President of the National Home Board of Trustees, who is also a Past Department Commander of the Department of Idaho, Sam Sears, Jr.

#### REMARKS BY D. E. SEARS, JR., VICE-PRESIDENT, VFW NATIONAL HOME

Comrade SAM SEARS, Jr. Thank you, Commander. Good morning, comrades. The President has the same problem that Larry has, she didn't show up, so I will fill in for a second. I want to introduce the Trustees that are here this morning.

District No. 3, Ronald G. Tyler, Sr., who represents Pennsylvania, D.C. and Delaware.

District No. 5, John M. Carney, who represents Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and the Panama Canal.

District No. 7, Robert W. Goossen, representative for Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa.

District No. 8, Stephen R. York, who represents Illinois and Indiana.

District 9 representative, John L. O'Neill, Jr., who represents Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska.

District No. 10, Robert Speake, representing Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

I represent District No. 12, which is Idaho, California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada and Hawaii. I can't get anybody to go to Hawaii because I have to go over there to their Conventions and luaus.

The President of our VFW National Home, Arlene McDermott, has arrived, and I would like to turn the microphone over to her for remarks.

#### ADDRESS BY ARLENE MCDERMOTT, PRESIDENT, VFW NATIONAL HOME

President ARLENE MCDERMOTT. Thank you. Sam introduced the Board of Trustees, who are here, and I would just like to take this

opportunity to thank you very much for the excellent response we have had this year for the Seals Program.

Because you responded so well, we were able to give our employees a small raise, which was very much overdue. We also thank the states that have cottages that have been sending in money and our Executive Director who has been doing an excellent job bringing those cottages up to standard.

We would be happy for you to visit the National Home and see the cottages when they are all fixed up. We thank you for the increase in Life Memberships. The money that comes in on Life Memberships is not spent, but we serve to support the Home with the interest we derive from the Life Membership Trust Fund.

If we had a Life Membership from every single member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Ladies Auxiliary, we would never have to ask for another cent. So keep that in mind.

At the present time, we have 83 children in the Home, 13 natural parents and 9 scholarship students. The seminars this year will be held on September 15-16 and October 27-28, which is also the Annual Meeting of the National Home Board of Trustees. All Life Members have an opportunity to vote for the candidates for the Board of Trustees. This year District No. 1 has three candidates.

District 2 has a candidate, Earl Stock, who has no opposition. We hope that you will vote if you are a Life Member. Last year, we sent out over 75,000 ballots and received back less than 17,000. That is the smallest return we have ever had.

Thank you so much for what you do for the National Home and for our children there. Over the years, we have helped over 1,500 children to have as normal a life as possible thanks to you. Thank you, Larry.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you very much, and congratulations on a job well done. It has been a pleasure having had the opportunity to work with you this year, and please keep up the good work.

President ARLENE McDERMOTT. Larry, it my pleasure to present to you a plate from the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home, presented with sincere appreciation to Larry W. Rivers, Commander-in-Chief, 1988-'89. We also have another small gift that I am sure you can use when you are laying around relaxing.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you very much, Madam President. My comrades, I can say from firsthand experience, having had the opportunity to meet with your Board of Trustees, that they work hard and are doing a good job at the National Home. I am pleased to say they seem to be succeeding. Thanks to you all for the wonderful job you are doing.

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. Candidates and those who are making nominating or seconding speeches for candidates for national office are requested to come to the stage at this time.

Is there any other unfinished business that needs to come before this session? If not, we will go into the Nomination of Officers.

Comrade BLAIR CROSS (Post 8672—Maryland). Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I am Blair Cross, Post 8672, Maryland. You forgot to ask for new business.



Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. I was under the impression that we had completed our new business to come before the Convention. What new business do you have to present?

Comrade BLAIR CROSS (Post 8672—Maryland). I have a motion to put on the floor.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. What is your motion?

Comrade BLAIR CROSS (Post 8672—Maryland). The Commander, the Department of Maryland puts before the body here at the 90th Convention today that the Department of Maryland be permitted to send necessary documentation outlining the Ft. McHenry Restoration Project and order forms to all the Departments in the jurisdiction of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States for their consideration of this project as approved by the previous '87 and '88 National Conventions.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Has that resolution been submitted in written form to the Adjutant General?

Comrade BLAIR CROSS (Post 8672—Maryland). No, sir. We are putting it on the floor as new business.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. I am going to check very quickly the Convention Rules. I was under the impression that resolutions to come before this body must be in written form and properly submitted to the committee for discussion and debate before presenting it on the floor.

Comrade BLAIR CROSS (Post 8672—Maryland). I am aware of what you are saying. This is not a resolution. This is a motion to adopt on the Convention floor.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Well, will you explain to me what is the difference between that and a resolution?

Comrade BLAIR CROSS (Post 8672—Maryland). Comrade Commander-in-Chief, we are seeking support from the body here, and I have a second if you want to get it on the floor for discussion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Is there a second to that motion? Is there a second to that motion?

Comrade PETER PUENTES (Post 10209—Florida). The State of Florida seconds that motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrade, I am unable, unless you give me something in written form, to repeat what your motion is. The floor is now open for discussion on the motion.

Comrade BLAIR CROSS (Post 8672—Maryland). First of all, let me say that I am almost embarrassed to come here today and have to put this motion on the floor. However, what I have to say is something that I think that the Department of Maryland has gone through since 1986, and if you will allow me just a few minutes to explain the situation, I think you will understand because it has to do with the restoration of the birth place of our National Anthem at Ft. McHenry where all of you will be coming next year for the National Convention.

In 1986, the Department of Maryland passed a resolution that the Veterans of Foreign Wars would become active in the restoration of Ft. McHenry. If I can just take a minute, I would like to read a portion of that resolution.

Resolution No. 83, adopted by the Department of Maryland at the 1986 Convention, reads in part:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States endorse and support the efforts of the Department of Maryland and Congress of the United States in raising the necessary funds to restore and renovate Ft. McHenry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Organizations be authorized to solicit its Posts, County Councils, Districts and Departments to participate through donations and annual fund raising programs, in the efforts of the comrades and Department of Maryland to restore and renovate Ft. McHenry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the contribution and fund raising projects by Posts, Auxiliaries, County Councils, District and Departments for these purposes be accredited for solicitations in the Americanism and Community Activities Program of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all such contributions from VFW units be transferred to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States in care of the Quartermaster General and designated VFW funds for restoration of Ft. McHenry.

Comrades, that was submitted to the 87th National Convention in Minnesota. I won't go through all the "whereases" on that one. This is the National Resolution, and I will go through the "resolved" on that.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the 87th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we approve this resolution and thereby make the restoration and renovation of Ft. McHenry a vital and crucial part of the national programs of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Comrades, the next exhibit I have is No. 94 out of the proceedings of the 87th Convention in Minnesota, which states clearly that this program was adopted as a National VFW program without question. There was no action taken on this resolution that was adopted by the National Organization.

The Department of Maryland questioned the National Organization as to why there was no action taken on the program. They could not give us an answer to it. But we did set up a meeting with Adjutant General, Howard Vander Clute, Assistant Adjutant General Ed Burnham and John Senk in Bloomington, Delaware, at the Eastern States Conference. At that time we were told the reason the National Organization had not acted on Resolution No. 217 that had been adopted was the fact that we did not spell out in detail what we were going to do.

They told us to come back at the 1988 Convention in New Orleans with a new resolution, and they would approve and support it. In this meeting, the Department of Maryland was wearing a five star for the Ft. McHenry pin.

At that time the Adjutant General asked us what the pin was and what it represented. When we explained to him that we were selling these to help raise money for the restoration for Ft. McHenry, the Adjutant General said "We cannot let you sell them on a national level.

"However, why don't you have your own pin." We explained to him we didn't have the money to have our own pin made. We were told to get your own pin made and you can sell it on a national level, and we did. We took the advice of the National Organization.

We had the pin made and we came back at the 1988 Convention in New Orleans and again, comrades, I am not going to go through all of the "resolved" portions, but that Resolution No. 214 was adopted at the Convention in New Orleans, as amended.

Comrades, I would like to explain to you the amendment stated that instead of the money going to the Adjutant General's office, because they were too busy to handle another program, that it

would be acceptable to receive the funds in Maryland and report it to the National Organization.

Comrades, at two consecutive Conventions this program was adopted by the National Organization to be accredited in the National Americanism program; each one of them. Since that time, comrades, we have had the pins made. They sold pretty good in Maryland.

We had 20,000 pins made with the assumption that all 53 or 54 Departments would assist us in selling these pins. We called the Adjutant General's office to seek permission to send out a notice to all 53 Departments. We were told that we could not do it because no Department can solicit funds outside of their own jurisdiction, which was passed last year at the National Convention.

We are not seeking to sell pins for the Department of Maryland as a fund raiser. This is a National VFW Program that has not been carried out by the National Convention and/or National Organization.

To be honest with you, the only reason we asked National's permission is because we had a letter signed, and I know this is probably done by someone else, but it was signed by the Commander-in-Chief, with his approval, to help promote this program, and this letter was to be sent out to all businesses in the United States seeking funds.

I have another thing here showing where the Department of Maryland donated \$17,700 last year to the Ft. McHenry Restoration Program for the new flag pole to replace the one that fell off in a high wind.

Comrades, that is our hitch right now. What I am saying to you is we have done everything that the National Organization has told us to do, asked us to do and recommended that we do. We still have had no action from the National Convention or the National Organization as they were mandated to do by two consecutive Conventions.

Comrades, if we had not been told that we can sell these pins for a National Program, we would not have had that many made. Maryland is stuck with about 14,000 pins. All we are asking is that Departments get involved and order some of these pins and help Maryland sell them.

As I have said, two consecutive Conventions adopted this as a National Program creditable to Americanism.

[Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Hogan assumed the Chair.]

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. The Chair recognizes Commander-in-Chief Rivers at Microphone No. 2.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrades, I am Commander-in-Chief Larry Rivers, VFW Post 1736, Louisiana. I want to make one or two comments. The first one is that in this Convention we have a resolution process. Things that come before the delegates are debated and discussed in Convention and then brought on this floor for debate.

My comrades, the way we conduct VFW business and new business is intended to be things that we could not foresee in time to get to our committees. The comrade that comes before us on almost the last day of the Convention prior to the nominating process,

saying he wants us to take some action on an issue which two previous Conventions took action, had more than ample time to take it through the resolution process which he chose not to do.

Now, the second point I want to make is this. Any Department who chooses to take the Ft. McHenry project on as a project has the right to do that. By the same token, as I told you this morning, I don't think you or your members, or anybody in your Department, should be bombarded with requests to buy pins or anything else.

That is the decision that you can make without a resolution mandating us to give money to anybody. So on both grounds, I urge you to vote against this.

If any of you in this room desire to take that on as a project, you certainly can contact your comrades, your Department Commanders, after this thing is over and ask them to help if they can.

Before I close, I want to say the National Organization, on the National level, has been responsive to the Ft. McHenry Restoration Project. The Past Commander-in-Chief Earl Stock personally delivered from your organization on behalf the VFW, either \$5,000 or \$7,500, I can't remember which it was, on behalf of that project.

Second, the National Organization ran an article in the VFW magazine in support of the Ft. McHenry Restoration Project. There are many worthy projects, and many good things we do. We try to do everything we can, but there comes a place when we should draw the line. I urge you to draw that line here today and vote no. Thank you.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. Blair, I recognize you at Microphone No. 2.

Comrade BLAIR CROSS (Post 8672—Maryland). This is my second time on the floor, and I will keep it brief. I wholeheartedly agree with the Commander-in-Chief that the resolution process is the proper process.

However, as I stated before, we took that route on two previous Convention floors. Both resolutions were adopted and not acted on afterwards, and the only reason that Earl Stock came to Baltimore and gave us \$5,000 to give to the project was the fact that we called him on the phone and we said, "Earl, the American Legion has donated \$11,000 to the Ft. McHenry program. What is the Veterans of Foreign Wars going to do?"

Comrades, I will leave you with one last comment. As I stated, I could have gone ahead and sent this letter out to all Departments without seeking National's approval. I have documentation in my hands here from two Departments that are seeking solicitations from all of the Departments on fund raisers for their Departments, their Department only, not a National Program.

I urge you to adopt this so we can get everybody behind the resolution. I ask you to approve this motion so every Department in the United States will have an opportunity to sell the Ft. McHenry pins that we have displayed here. Thank you, comrades.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. Anything else on the motion? Is everybody familiar with the motion? I will call for the question. All those in favor will indicate by the usual sign; all those opposed "no". The motion is lost.

[Whereupon, Commander-in-Chief Rivers assumed the Chair.]



## NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

## NOMINATION OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The floor is open for nominations of officers. The Chair will call for nominations for the office of Commander-in-Chief. For the purpose of making a nomination, the Chair recognizes Department Commander of Wisconsin Gerald Burkel.

Comrade GERALD BURKEL (Post 5373—Wisconsin). Commander Rivers, National Officers, Council Members and my Comrades:

It is indeed an honor and a pleasure to stand before you this morning to place in nomination a man who has given so much of himself, his time, and his efforts to all veterans and to the widows and children of veterans.

Walter G. Hogan was elected Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States at the 89th Convention in Chicago, Illinois, August 26, 1988. Walter, or what we know him by is "Wally", was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin, January 8, 1932, and he grew up in Wisconsin, attended West Benton High School in Milwaukee, then entered the U.S. Army.

As a veteran of the Korean War, Wally, if elected, will join seven other Korean veterans that have served as Commander-in-Chief of the VFW. Of that group, three were combat infantrymen, and Wally is one of them.

I take great pride, as does the Department of Wisconsin, in nominating him. He will be the third member of our Department to hold the position as Commander-in-Chief. Wally served in a rifle company as a Squad Leader in the 7th Infantry Division.

In December, 1952, he was wounded by Chinese mortar fire and he came home to Wisconsin wearing the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantry Badge and the Korean Service Medal with two battle stars.

Following college, Wally began a long, successful career with the Rexnord Corporation in Milwaukee. He also joined VFW Post 6498 in Milwaukee. He served as Post Commander, District 5 Commander and Commander of the Department of Wisconsin, where he was an All-American Department Commander.

At the National level, Comrade Hogan served on the National Council of Administration, Chairman of the Community Activities Committee and as a member of the National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee. As a veteran, Wally has served his country, his community and our nation in an outstanding manner.

He is married to the former Shirley Drew of Milwaukee. He has five children and three grandchildren. It is indeed an honor to place on nomination for the high office of Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Walter G. Hogan from the Department of Wisconsin.

[Whereupon, the assembly extended a prolonged rising ovation.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, Commander. For the purpose of seconding the nomination of Walter G. Hogan to be the next Commander-in-Chief, I will call on Monte Hanson, Past Department Commander, Wisconsin.

Comrade MONTE HANSON (Post 1621—Wisconsin). It is indeed an honor and pleasure to stand up here and second the nomination of Walter G. Hogan for Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for 1989-'90.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Are there any other nominations for the office of Commander-in-Chief? Are there any other nominations for the office of Commander-in-Chief? Are there any other nominations?

Hearing none, the nominations will be re-opened in the morning.

#### NOMINATION OF SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. I now call for nominations for the office of Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief. For that purpose, the Chair recognizes Judd Clemons, Past Department Commander, Alaska.

Comrade JUDD CLEMONS (Post 9785—Alaska). Commander-in-Chief Rivers, National Officers, Delegates to this 90th National Convention:

I am proud to place in nomination for the office of Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States a man who has ably served our organization for 39 years. He is James Kimery, Post 9354, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

During the past year, Jim served with distinction as the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. As such, he traveled thousands of miles across the United States, to Central America and overseas expounding the philosophy of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He has exercised his role of leadership with genuine brilliance and humility. In the discharge of his duties, he has proved himself highly competent and has visibly demonstrated those qualities and qualifications that are necessary to satisfy the highest expectations of a Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

When he speaks on behalf of veterans, there is little doubt as to his complete dedication towards the enhancement of our principles and our ideals. His credentials have been minutely examined during the past year and have been found to be impeccable.

Those of you who have met him know him to be well-versed in veterans' affairs, well-versed in VFW programs, well-versed in our legislative mandates and well-liked in the VFW community.

Jim is a welcome addition to any VFW function. Our organization requires and will continue to receive his dedication, his devotion and his dynamic leadership.

It is with a tremendous amount of pride and pleasure that I place in nomination for the office of Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars James Kimery from the Department of New Mexico and the great Western Conference.

[Whereupon, the assembly extended a prolonged rising ovation.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. For the purpose of seconding the nomination of James Kimery as Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, the Chair recognizes Department of New Mexico Commander Joseph Salas.

Comrade JOSEPH SALAS (Post 401—New Mexico). Comrade Commander-in-Chief Larry Rivers, National Officers, Delegates to the 90th National Convention:

It is indeed an honor and privilege to stand before this delegation to speak on behalf of a comrade who I have had the privilege of knowing for several years, a man who has devoted his life and given much of his time to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, a comrade who has served as Quartermaster for the Department of New Mexico for many, many years, and has done a great job.

The delegation of New Mexico, who is present here today wholeheartedly supports Jim in his endeavors to be our next Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief. Therefore, I proudly second his nomination.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Are there any other nominations for the office of Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief? Are there any other nominations for the office of Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief? Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, the nominations are closed for today and will be re-opened in the morning.

#### NOMINATION OF JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The floor is now open for nominations for the office of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. For the purpose of a nomination, the Chair recognizes Past Department Commander Arthur Morin from New Jersey.

Comrade ARTHUR MORIN (Post 2692—New Jersey). Thank you, Comrade Commander-in-Chief. Commander-in-Chief Rivers, National Officers, Past Commanders-in-Chief and to you, the Delegates to this 90th Annual Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States:

I indeed feel privileged to be able to stand before you today and place in nomination for the office of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief the name of a comrade who is thoroughly experienced to serve in the position which he seeks.

Comrades, our candidate joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1967 and in 1968 he was shipped overseas as a Combat Infantryman. During that active duty, he was wounded on three separate occasions. The last occasion was the one that was serious. It required relocation back to the States for rehabilitation and eventually honorable discharge from the United States Marine Corps.

Immediately upon being separated from military service, he continued to further his education, which had been interrupted by his tour of duty in the United States Marine Corps. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Management, and went on to earn a Master's degree in Business Administration.

He chose as his field of endeavor the banking industry. His managerial and administrative abilities were soon recognized and he rose very rapidly up the corporate ladder to the position of Senior Vice-President of one of the largest banks in the State of New Jersey, the First Fidelity National Bank of New Jersey.

Concurrent with his interest in furthering his own career and his home life, he had another love, and that love was the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Our candidate did all that is required to be done on the local level to earn the reputation of a comrade who has paid his dues to the organization.

He did the same on the District level and also on the Departmental level. He served as Commander of the Department of New

Jersey. He moved on to become the National Council member for the past two years.

Comrades, our candidate recognized early in his VFW career that if we want to continue to be successful as an organization in maintaining current veterans programs and securing new programs that will be required as the years go on, that this would have to be done through the legislative and political process. Therefore, he directed the thrust of his energies in that direction.

Comrades, while he served on the Department of New Jersey Legislative Committee for some seven or eight years, we, in New Jersey, acquired some of our most notable successes. We have absolute veterans employment rights in New Jersey.

These rights are constantly under attack by the women's lib group and anti-veterans groups in New Jersey. I am happy to report that is still intact. During the years he served on the Legislative Committee, we developed the best rapport we ever had with our legislators on both sides of the aisle.

Our most notable success was a recent accomplishment in having acquired in the State of New Jersey a Department of Veterans Affairs. Our candidate was so far in the forefront in the endeavor to get this passed into legislation that when it came time for the Governor to appoint a Deputy Commissioner to organize and run this Department, the name of Robert Wallace was immediately presented.

Immediately upon the announcement appearing in the papers, the Senior Senator from the State of New Jersey, Bill Bradley, who is of a different political persuasion than our Governor, immediately stepped forward and endorsed that nominee.

This was immediately followed by the endorsement of the leaders on both sides of the aisle in the New Jersey Legislature. So, when Bob Wallace's name came up before the Senate for confirmation, he breezed through without a hitch.

Comrades, our candidate is married to the former Diane Kish, a very charming and intelligent young lady, who has all the requirements and attributes that we like to see in the wife of our National Officers. She is a charming hostess and a very gracious person to talk to.

Diane and Bob have a beautiful young daughter, who is a very fine athlete, particularly in the field of basketball. I have no fear in issuing a challenge to you six-footers if you care to meet her and go one-on-one to shoot a few baskets, I have no doubt that she will accept your challenge and beat you. One note of caution: you better be in shape before you try.

Comrades, we, in the State of New Jersey, know that our candidate is thoroughly experienced in the grass roots operation of our organization. He thoroughly understands the legislative and political processes under which our National Officers must operate in this day and time.

If we are going to continue to be successful in carrying out the mandates of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and caring for the disabled veterans and those who are less fortunate, we are going to have to continue to elect candidates to national office who are skilled in those areas.



Comrades, our candidate has demonstrated on all levels of the organization and in his private life that he possesses the leadership qualities that are necessary to put into effect the legislative and political knowledge that he has acquired.

That is why it is with a great deal of pride that I place in nomination for the office of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, our candidate from New Jersey and the Eastern States Conference, Robert E. Wallace.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, Art. For the purpose of a second to that nomination, the Chair recognizes John Moony, Commander, Department of New Jersey.

Comrade JOHN MOONY (Post 711—New Jersey). Thank you, Commander-in-Chief. To the distinguished guests sitting up here on the dais and especially to you, the distinguished delegates and comrades sitting out there, I am the State Commander of the Garden State of New Jersey.

It is indeed an honor for me to second the nomination of a man who I have known for over 25 years. It is indeed an honor that I shall cherish the rest of my life.

I say that because of having known Bob Wallace from time he was single until he became married, furthered his schooling, became a father, went into the banking business, continued his involvement with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, I have seen a man grow.

When he grew within the Veterans of Foreign Wars, he took us along with him. As members of the Department of New Jersey, Veterans of Foreign Wars, we become stronger. We were nourished by the leadership ability that Bob Wallace displayed.

He is an experienced man, he is a knowledgeable man, he is an educated man. Probably even more importantly, he is a very articulate man, a man who can express himself in front of a crowd, a man who can get the point across to whomever he talks to, whether it is one-on-one or before a large gathering.

His background clearly indicates that he is capable of meeting with the best. Once he knows what his goals and his objectives are, there is no stopping him. As we enter the 1990's, the Veterans of Foreign Wars is in desperate need of strong leadership—strong leadership that now exists in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, that has to be nourished and cultured to continue the long line of leadership we have enjoyed in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

We feel Bob Wallace has this leadership ability. He has demonstrated it time and time again. We ask for your endorsement of Bob Wallace to help give our National Organization the leadership ability that we must have to carry on if we want to see the benefits maintained that we have gained as veterans.

We have a leader in Bob Wallace who is presently employed in fighting for what the veteran wants. Who better than Bob Wallace to join the National Officers of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, as Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, and in a short time to become National Commander-in-Chief and lead us into the 1990's bringing honor and glory to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Commander-in-Chief and comrades, it is indeed my honor to second the nomination of Robert E. Wallace for National Junior Vice Commander for the year 1989-1990.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. For the purpose of seconding the nomination of Bob Wallace for Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, I call on Peter Meisburger, Past Department Commander, Maine, to the dais.

Comrade PETER MEISBURGER (Post 9389—Maine). It is indeed a privilege and honor to second the nomination of Robert Wallace from the Garden State of New Jersey for the office of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Bob is a dynamic leader, a man who doesn't forget the troops in the trenches, an individual who cares for you, an individual in the East, when you are asked to spell Wallace, you spell it "l-e-a-d-e-r."

He is a man that has demonstrated leadership and ability, a guy that cares for everything the Veterans of Foreign Wars stands for. Indeed, once again, it is a privilege and honor for me to second the nomination of Robert Wallace for the office of National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Are there any other nominations for the office of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, the nominations are closed to be re-opened in the morning.

#### NOMINATION OF QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. At this time we will have nominations for the office of Quartermaster General. For the purpose of a nomination, the Chair recognizes Past Department Commander, Missouri, Paul Fleurdelys.

Comrade PAUL FLEURDELYS (Post 4294—Missouri). Thank you, Larry. Commander-in-Chief, Officers of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and Comrades:

I stand here this morning proud to nominate a man who has proven his capabilities in the job of Quartermaster General. For 23 years, he served as Assistant Quartermaster General and for five years he has been handling our money as Quartermaster General.

He needs no further introduction. He is capable, able and willing to do the job. I proudly nominate Herbert Irwin for the office of Quartermaster General.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The name of Herb Irwin has been placed in nomination for Quartermaster General.

The Chair recognizes Past Department Commander of Missouri James Willis for the purpose of a second.

Comrade JAMES WILLIS (Post 534—Missouri). Commander-in-Chief, National Officers and Delegates:

This organization has been very fortunate. I served with our first Quartermaster General, and then along came a man by the name of Al Cheatham who for 25 years was a great Quartermaster General, and then I met a young man about 28 years ago. He was Assistant Quartermaster General then. Today I am honored to second the nomination of Herbert W. Irwin as Quartermaster General for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you. Any other nominations for the office of Quartermaster General? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, the nominations will be closed and will be re-opened in the morning.

#### NOMINATION OF JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The floor is now open for nominations for the office of Judge Advocate General.

For the purpose of a nomination, the Chair recognizes Past Commander-in-Chief Earl Stock.

Past Commander-in-Chief STOCK. National Officers, Comrades and Delegates:

It is my privilege this morning to stand before you to place in nomination for the office of Judge Advocate General the name of Sam Pilato, from the great State of New York.

Sam is married. He and his wife, Grace, have three children, a daughter and two sons. His daughter is an attorney following in her father's footsteps. This comrade served with the 3rd Air Force, was in the Judge Advocate Section and served in Europe with the 10th Division in World War II.

He is a graduate of St. Bonaventure College. He has been a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for over 42 years, and has served through the chairs of his Post and District. For nine years he served as Judge Advocate of the great Department of New York.

He also served as counsel to the New York Senate for nine years. In the labor and industrial area, he is recognized as a very competent attorney. His work with the Veterans of Foreign Wars has continued and after nine years as State Judge Advocate, he was elected Junior Vice Commander of the State of New York. He was elected Senior Vice Commander the following year and went on to have an outstanding year as State Commander. An All-American Commander in the Department of New York, having one of the most successful years that we have had in a great many years under his leadership. This comrade is personable. He may be short in stature, but he is tall in ability to serve this organization.

So, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to nominate my good friend and Comrade, All-American Commander, Samuel C. Pilato, for the position of Judge Advocate General for 1989-'90.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, Chief. For the purpose of a second to the nomination of Samuel Pilato, the Chair recognizes State Commander Tony Ferrarese.

Comrade TONY FERRARESE (Post 16—New York). Thank you very much. Commander-in-Chief Rivers, National Officers and Delegates to this 90th Annual Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars:

I am privileged and honored to second the nomination of Samuel Pilato for the office of Judge Advocate General. I can assure you that Sam Pilato will bring the dedication and knowledge that is necessary for the duties of the Judge Advocate General.

Many of you know that Sam is a free spirit and happy-go-lucky individual, but I can assure you when it comes to the concern and the care of veterans, Sam Pilato will be in the forefront taking care of that.

Therefore, I second the nomination of Sam Pilato for the office of Judge Advocate General.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, comrade. Are there any other nominations for the high office of Judge Advocate General? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, the nominations are closed to be re-opened in the morning.

#### NOMINATION OF SURGEON GENERAL

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The floor is now open for nominations for the office of Surgeon General.

The Chair recognizes for the purpose of a nomination Judge Brown, State Commander from California.

Comrade JUDGE BROWN (Post 7792—California). Thank you, Commander-in-Chief. Commander-in-Chief Rivers, National Officers and Comrades:

I come before you this morning to nominate a great individual who has dedicated his life to veterans and the medical care which they receive. He earned his eligibility for the VFW by serving in the Army from '43 to '46, as a Captain in the Medical Corps.

He served as State Surgeon General of California for ten years, and received his training from Loma Linda University, which as a lot of you know is one of the leading universities in medical treatment of veterans and research.

He received his graduate training at UCLA, one of the greatest medical schools in the world, where he remains a Professor. He is also on the academic staff at his alma mater, Loma Linda Medical School.

He has been married to his wife, Margaret Ann, for 42 years. They have two sons living in the great State of California. Dr. Wright retired last year. He was Chief of Staff of the Jerry Pettis VA Medical Center. He is currently on the staff of Loma Linda.

After having served all those years with an opportunity to retire, he volunteered his time and still is working in two hospitals, continuing to serve the veteran.

Comrades, it is an honor and a privilege for me to stand before you today and nominate Edwin T. Wright for Surgeon General of this great organization.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. For the purpose of a second to the nomination of Dr. Wright, the Chair recognizes Ray B. Taylor, State Commander of Wyoming.

Comrade RAY TAYLOR (Post 3511—Wyoming). Commander-in-Chief, National Officers and Delegates to the 90th National Convention:

It is indeed a pleasure for me to be able to stand before you and second the nomination of Dr. Edwin T. Wright for Surgeon General.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Any other nominations for the office of Surgeon General? Any other nominations? Any other nominations? Hearing none, the nominations are closed to be re-opened in the morning.



## NOMINATION OF NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The floor is now open for nominations for the office of National Chaplain.

For the purpose of a nomination, the Chair recognizes Cleve Cox, Adjutant-Quartermaster, Department of North Carolina.

Comrade WILLIAM COX (Post 7383—North Carolina). Commander-in-Chief, National Officers and Delegates to this National Convention:

My name is William C. Cox, from Post 7383, Perry, North Carolina. I am pleased and honored to nominate for the office of National Chaplain Reverend A. G. Parker, a Life Member of Post 9719 in Advance, North Carolina. Reverend Parker is an ordained minister of the Baptist faith, who has the approval of his church to seek this office.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The name of Reverend A. G. Parker has been nominated for the office of National Chaplain.

For the purpose of a second to that nomination, the Chair recognizes National Chaplain Reverend John Hosmer.

National Chaplain HOSMER (Post 5095—Connecticut). Comrades, I wish to second the nomination of the Reverend A. G. Parker as National Chaplain of the VFW.

Usually, the nomination and the seconds are delivered by leaders from the sponsoring state and conference. But this time the sponsors chose to ask this Connecticut Yankee to speak because of my sincere respect for and personal friendship with Mr. Parker and the fine people from the great State of North Carolina.

After many in-depth meetings with Mr. Parker, I am convinced that he has the training, the experience and the spiritual qualities needed in a National Chaplain. I am sure that he will do an outstanding job, and he has my complete support, and I have pledged my help in the year ahead.

It is a great honor to second the nomination of the Reverend A. G. Parker for National Chaplain of the VFW.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Are there any other nominations for the office of National Chaplain? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, the nominations will be closed and will be re-opened in the morning.

Comrade Sergeant-at-Arms, will you prepare the room for the closing ceremonies.

[Whereupon, National Chaplain Hosmer gave the Closing Prayer from the Ritual.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. We are in recess and will reconvene at 9:00 o'clock a.m. tomorrow morning.

[Whereupon, the meeting was duly recessed at 11:30 o'clock a.m.]

## FOURTH BUSINESS SESSION

FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 25, 1989

[The Fourth Business Session of the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, held in the Barron Ballroom of the Hilton Center, Las Vegas Hilton Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, was called to order at 9:00 o'clock a.m., with Commander-in-Chief Rivers presiding.]

### CALL TO ORDER

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. My comrades, will you please take your seats. National Sergeant-at-Arms, please prepare the room for the Salute to the Colors and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### SALUTE TO COLORS AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Sergeant-at-Arms SARVER. Comrades and sisters, will you please rise and facing the flag of our nation, stand at attention and salute.

[Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was given at this time.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrade Chaplain, please.

[Whereupon, National Chaplain Hosmer gave the Opening Prayer from the Ritual.]

Sergeant-at-Arms SARVER. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, the Opening Ceremonies have been performed.

### FINAL REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you.

For the Final Report of the Credentials Committee, I would like to call on the Chairman, Richard Trombla, for this report.

Comrade RICHARD TROMBLA (Post 1174—Kansas). Commander-in-Chief, this is a Final Report of the Credentials Committee at this Convention.

The total delegate strength is 19,207; Department Commanders, 53; National Officers, 38; Past Commanders-in-Chief, 24. That gives a grand total of 19,322.

Comrade Commander-in-Chief, this is the final report, and I would like to ask you to discharge our committee at this time.

### INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS OF NATIONAL CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Prior to discharging your committee, please allow me to introduce the members of that committee.

The Chairman, of course, is Richard Trombla, from Kansas. The Vice-Chairman of the committee is James H. Kennaday, Department of Minnesota. The other members of the committee are Richard Kilhefner, Pennsylvania; James L. Mascola, Illinois; Edwin L. Meyers, California; Ray Nowak, New York; Elwood B. Rickards,

Delaware; Charles Sauer, New Jersey; Jake Tate, Jr., Virginia; and James H. Willis, from Missouri.

Mr. Chairman, congratulations to you and your committee on a job well done. You are discharged with my thanks for your service.

#### COMPLETION OF CONVENTION BUSINESS

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. My comrades, the Convention is fast running to a close. At this time, is there any other Convention business to come before this body?

Hearing none and seeing no speakers, I would like to call on the Adjutant General for the purpose of making a motion.

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. I will do that, Commander-in-Chief. However, I would ask if you will accept a presentation which has been prepared for you at this time? I call to this microphone John Ray, of New York, who is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the VFW-PAC.

Comrade JOHN RAY (Post 516—New York). Comrade Commander-in-Chief, it is my pleasure to present the PAC Silver Award which has on it the caricature of our Commander-in-Chief and our National President, and is presented by the Board of the VFW-PAC.

The award reads as follows:

Board PAC Silver Award honors Larry W. Rivers in special recognition of the outstanding support of the VFW-PAC in furthering the aims and ideals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States in its service to veterans and a strong National defense.

This has been signed by myself as Chairman of the Board. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, on behalf of the Board, we thank you for your cooperation and contribution you have made to the VFW-PAC.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Mr. Chairman, thank you, and thank the members of the Board for this plaque and for the recognition.

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. Commander-in-Chief, I move that the proceedings of the Veterans of Foreign Wars 90th National Convention be submitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States for printing as a House documents in accordance with Public Law No. 620, 90th Congress, approved October 2, 1968, Title 44, United States Code, Section 1332.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. You have heard the motion. Is there a second to the motion?

Comrade ROBERT WALLACE (Post 1851—New Jersey). I second it.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrade Wallace from New Jersey seconds it. You have heard the motion and the second. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, we will now vote.

All in favor of the motion will say "aye"; all those opposed will say "no". The "ayes" have it and it is so ordered.

#### NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL HOME TRUSTEES

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. I recognize the Adjutant General for the purpose of reading nominations for National Home Trustees.

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, there will be two National Home Trustees elected by the Life Mem-

bers of the National Home of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Ladies Auxiliary.

A vacancy will occur in the First National Home District. The First National Home District consists of the Departments of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Arlene McDermott will be retiring from the National Home Board and will create that vacancy.

The following candidates have been properly endorsed:

Besseye C. Evergates, Ladies Auxiliary to Post 523, Clinton, Massachusetts; Gardner S. McWilliams, Post 2425, Marion, Massachusetts; and Frank E. Lightowler, Post 6342, North Smithfield, Rhode Island.

A vacancy will also occur in the Second National Home District upon the retirement of Florence Taylor. The Second National Home District consists of the Departments of New York, New Jersey and Europe. There is only one announced candidate, and that is Earl L. Stock, Jr., Post 3275, Ft. Plain, New York.

#### PRESENTATION OF CONTRIBUTION FOR KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you. Comrades, about two months ago, I attended a ceremony in the Rose Garden of the White House in which the design for the Korean War Veterans Memorial was unveiled.

Calling the war an "American victory that remains too little appreciated and too little understood," President Bush said, "No more—it's time to remember."

Today marks the third year in which the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Ladies Auxiliary have led the way in contributing funds toward the building of a monument in our Nation's Capitol to honor those brave men and women who fought and died in freedom's cause during the Korean War.

Here today to accept from our Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief this year's donation is Colonel William E. Ryan, Director of the American Battle Monuments Commission. A native of Los Angeles and a graduate of Compton College, Colonel Ryan was commissioned in 1943 from OCS and served in the infantry in France and Germany as a Platoon Leader in the 3rd Infantry Division.

Before the Korean War, he served in Korea and Japan and later in the 9th Infantry Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Division. Prior to his assignment to the American Battle Monuments Commission, he served with the 101st Airborne Division and with the United Nations in India and Pakistan.

Please welcome the Director of Finance and Operations for the American Battle Monuments Commission and a fellow member of the VFW, Colonel Ryan. Colonel Ryan, will you join me here at this station.

In addition to Colonel Ryan, as all of you know, our Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief and soon to be our Commander-in-Chief is a Korean War Veteran. I have asked the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief if he will do the honors of presenting this year's donation to Colonel Ryan.

I will ask Wally Hogan, our Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, to join me at this station.



Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. Thank you, Chief. Early in the campaign to raise funds to support the construction of the Korean War Memorial, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary pledged one-half million dollars.

We made the first installment of \$243,372.98 at our 88th National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, in August, 1987. Our second installment of \$132,900 was made at our 89th National Convention in Chicago, Illinois, in August of 1988. Today, at our 90th National Convention, in the City of Las Vegas, we are about to fulfill our commitment.

I want to present to you two checks, one from the VFW and one from the Ladies Auxiliary, in the amount of \$133,502.11, bringing the grand total to \$509,775.09.

Of that amount, the Veterans of Foreign Wars raised \$415,722 and our Ladies Auxiliary supported our effort with \$96,052. As a Korean Veteran who fought in that country, I am anxious, along with our fellow comrades and sisters of our Ladies Auxiliary, to see the monument once and for all erected and dedicated.

Colonel Ryan, I am indeed honored to present you with this check to fulfill our commitment to the American Battle Monuments Commission on the Korean War Memorial. [Applause.]

RESPONSE—COLONEL WILLIAM E. RYAN, JR., DIRECTOR, AMERICAN  
BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Colonel WILLIAM RYAN. Soon to be National Commander-in-Chief Walter G. Hogan and soon to be President of the Ladies Auxiliary Alice Hutto, Reverend Clergy, Distinguished Guests, Delegates to the National Convention and Fellow Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars:

This is the third time I have had the great honor and privilege of attending our National Convention to receive a major contribution to the Korean Veterans Memorial War Fund. It is most appropriate that our new Commander-in-Chief, Walter Hogan, a disabled veteran of that war himself, present the contribution, satisfying a pledge made several years ago by the VFW to donate at least one-half million dollars to the fund.

Today's contribution not only satisfies that pledge but raises the total amount in the Korean Veterans Memorial Fund to \$3.5 million; an increase during the past year of over \$1 million. Unfortunately, even though our fund raising efforts are far from needed requirements to complete the project because \$2.5 million must be raised within the next two years in order to reach our goal of \$6 million, good progress continues to be made on the memorial.

Ashwoods, a superb place in our nation's capital, next to the Lincoln Memorial and across from the reflecting pool of the Vietnam Memorial, has been approved by all agencies concerned.

Judging in the open competition to select the design has been completed. In this regard, President Bush himself unveiled a model of the winning design at a ceremony in the White House Rose Garden on the 14th of June. We are in the process of resolving some minor differences on the design which the agencies concerned must approve and the selecting of an architectural-engineering firm to convert the concept into detailed specifications.

It hardly seems possible that it has been 36 years since the signing of the Armistice ending the Korean War. Last month, in Washington, the anniversary was marked by a Congressional Proclamation and a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery, by the Veterans of the Korean War.

As many of you know from your personal experience, the Korean War was one of the toughest and hardest fought in our nation's history despite its short duration. You can be assured that the Battle Monuments Commission will do everything in its power to bring the Memorial to reality, making certain once and for all that the Korean War Veterans receive the long overdue recognition which they so richly deserve.

The generosity of the Veterans of Foreign Wars set a final example and goal for all other veterans organizations, something of which every member in the Veterans of Foreign Wars can be very proud. Thanks again for your help. It is really appreciated. [Applause.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, Colonel Ryan, for joining us and the very best of luck as you continue your work on the Korean War Veterans Memorial. Again to re-emphasize the point that Wally made, the two checks we gave today, between ourselves and the Auxiliary, totaled \$133,501.11.

You can be mighty proud of the fact that we have given over a half million dollars. I might mention, too, when we were in the Rose Garden for the unveiling of the statue, the VFW was prominently mentioned as one of only two veterans organizations being a supporter and a large contributor to that Memorial. You can be proud of that effort.

[Whereupon, the meeting recessed for five minutes to prepare for the election of officers.]

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The meeting will please come to order. Before we get into the Election of Officers, I think this is an appropriate time to recognize the service of our Convention Chairman, Les Fry. Les was the Chairman of the 90th National Convention, and to you, Les, and to your staff and committee, our sincere thanks for a job well done. It has been a great Convention and we offer our thanks to you and the members of your committee.

Past Commander-in-Chief LESLIE FRY. Thank you. I appreciate those remarks, Chief, but all of the thanks should go to the committee. I want to thank publicly all of the people in Nevada who pitched in and helped. I hope you have had a good time. I hope that you have saved enough money to get home. So good luck to all of you and have a safe journey home.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, Past Commander-in-Chief Fry.

At this time would the National Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the family of our soon to be Commander-in-Chief, Wally Hogan, to this platform.

[Whereupon, the Sergeant-at-Arms escorted family members and guests to the dais.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. My comrades, the floor is now open for nominations for the office of Commander-in-Chief. Yesterday Walter Hogan, from Wisconsin, was nominated. Do I hear any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, the nominations are closed. Do I hear a motion?

The Chair recognizes Ed Kelly, who I might mention is the man that signed up our soon to be Commander-in-Chief to the VFW some 29 years ago, for a motion. Comrade Ed.

Comrade ED KELLY (Department of Wisconsin). Commander-in-Chief, I move that the rules be suspended and that the Adjutant General be instructed to cast one ballot for the unanimous choice of Walter G. Hogan for Commander-in-Chief for the ensuing year.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. You have heard the motion. Is there a second?

Comrade HOWARD VANDER CLUTE (Post 6467—New Jersey). I second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. You have heard the motion and the second. Hearing no discussion, all in favor of the motion will say "aye"; those opposed. The "ayes" have it.

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, as instructed by the delegates to this Convention, I cast one unanimous ballot for the election of Walter G. Hogan, Commander-in-Chief, of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, Comrades. The Color Guard from Post 6498 will escort the Commander-in-Chief, Wally Hogan, and his lovely wife, Shirley, to the station. A nice round of applause for our Commander-in-Chief Wally Hogan.

[Whereupon, the assembly extended a prolonged rising ovation to Commander-in-Chief-Elect Hogan.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrades and sisters, our new Commander-in-Chief, Walter G. Hogan.

Commander-in-Chief-Elect HOGAN. Thank you very much. I just want each and every one of you to know that I will be proud to serve as Commander-in-Chief in '89-'90 and look forward to working with each and every one of you for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. God bless you, thank you for your support. I love each and every one of you.

[Whereupon, Mrs. Walter (Shirley) Hogan presented a VFW cap to her husband, Commander-in-Chief-Elect, Wally Hogan.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrades, the floor is now open for nominations for the office of Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief. Yesterday, Jim Kimery, from New Mexico, was nominated. Do I hear any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

Seeing no one rising for the purpose of a nomination, the Chair will recognize Joseph Salas, Commander of the Department of New Mexico, for the purpose of making a motion. Comrade Salas.

Comrade JOSEPH SALAS (Post 401—New Mexico). Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I make a motion that the Adjutant General cast a unanimous ballot for our next Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, James L. Kimery.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a second to that motion?

Comrade ROBERT WALLACE (Post 1851—New Jersey). I second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. You have heard the motion. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor will say "aye"; all opposed "no".

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, as instructed by the delegates to this 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, I cast one unanimous ballot for James L. Kimery for Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrades, now being escorted to this platform is the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief-Elect, James Kimery and his wife, Dorothy. [Applause.]

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief-Elect KIMERY. Thank you very much, Commander-in-Chief Rivers. I just want to tell you how much I appreciate this high honor. There are some folks that I would like to thank.

I would like to thank my Post, my Department of New Mexico, the Western Conference, Larry Rivers and Wally Hogan, because they gave me all the great inspiration and guidance this year that will make me a better Senior Vice Commander.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my wife for all the encouragement and inspiration she has given me. When the road gets rocky, she has a way of smoothing things out and gets them rolling like they are supposed to. I would like to have my wife join me at the podium.

[Whereupon, a cap was presented to Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief-Elect Kimery by his wife, Dorothy.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. I hate to repeat what Dorothy said when she was trying to put that cap on. She said, "His head got big." I know that is not going to happen. Dorothy will make sure of that.

Comrades, yesterday we opened the nominations for Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, and at that time the name of Robert Wallace, from the great State of New Jersey, was placed in nomination.

The floor is now open again for nominations for the office of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

Seeing no one rising for that purpose, the Chair recognizes Art Morin for a motion.

Comrade ART MORIN (Post 2692—New Jersey). Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I move the Adjutant General cast one unanimous ballot for Robert E. Wallace for the office of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. You have heard the motion. Is there a second?

Comrade JOHN G. MOONEY (Post 711—New Jersey). I proudly second the motion to elect Robert E. Wallace for Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. You have heard the motion. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, those in favor of the motion will please say "aye"; those opposed say "nay". The "ayes" have it.



Robert E. Wallace has been elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, once again as instructed by the delegates to this 90th National Convention, I cast one unanimous ballot for Robert E. Wallace, Jr., Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. It is so ordered. Please escort Robert Wallace and his lovely wife to the podium.

Will you welcome to this station the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief-Elect of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Robert E. Wallace. [Applause.]

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief-Elect WALLACE. Thank you very much. My fellow National Officers and Past Commanders-in-Chief, my fellow Comrades and Sisters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the families of our National Officers and Friends:

First of all, I would like to thank Post 1851, District No. 4, and the Department of New Jersey for giving me the opportunity to become a candidate for the high office of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

I would also like to thank from the bottom of my heart the Eastern States Conference for endorsing my candidacy and projecting that confidence to other conferences and members of this organization.

I thank the members of the Southern Conference, the Big Ten Conference and the Western Conference, for placing their confidence and trust in me and joining with the Eastern Conference to elect me the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

I should like to recognize some family members that are here, if I could. The number one lady in the Wallace house, my wife, Diane, and our daughter, Cheryl. Two people that also made our campaign possible, because they stayed home while Diane and I were on the road four years, my mother-in-law and father-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. William Kish.

Also our uncle and aunt from Golden, Colorado, an employee of the Coors Brewery Company, Bill and Mary Kish. You heard the story about Cheryl playing basketball. If anyone wants to come forward and challenge her, and the shoes are too big to fill, she can call on her friend, who is also on the basketball team, Tracy Neff.

Two people I got to know about 17 months ago when I left the banking world and joined the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the one young lady, who is my Executive Assistant, and her husband is the gentleman who takes care of finding all the federal money we need to run the Department, my Executive Assistant and her husband, true friends, Dale and Mary Jane Jones.

The young lady who keeps the public relations going for our Department and makes sure when I travel anywhere in the State of New Jersey everybody knows, Barbara Gilsenan.

I want to tell each and every one of you that I will be proud to serve under Wally Hogan and Jim Kimery. I look forward to this year and the challenge of making this the 35th consecutive year of membership growth, and I look forward to traveling throughout this great country of ours representing you and the members of this organization.

Again, from the bottom of my heart, a sincere thank you, and God bless each and every one of you.

Commander-in-Chief-Elect HOGAN. You know, Bob, now that it is official I would like to present you with the T-shirt that all the State Commanders and National Officers will wear this year. Bob, as the new Junior Vice Commander, if I can get this open, I am pleased to present you with an extra, extra large T-shirt.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Yesterday, during the nominations for our Quartermaster General, one name was placed in nomination, that of Herbert W. Irwin. The floor is now open for nominations for Quartermaster General.

Are there any nominations for that position? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, is there a motion?

Comrade RON WOODERSON (Post 8220—Missouri). I make a motion that the Adjutant General be instructed to cast one unanimous ballot for Herbert W. Irwin for the office of Quartermaster General.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, comrade. You have heard the motion. Is there a second? Is there a second to the motion?

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief-Elect KIMERY. I will second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Jim Kimery seconds the motion. Is there any discussion on the motion? Hearing none, all in favor will say "aye"; those opposed "nay". The "ayes" have it. It is so ordered.

Will you please escort the Quartermaster General, Herbert W. Irwin, to this station, Comrade Sergeant-at-Arms.

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. Commander-in-Chief, as instructed by the delegates at this 90th National Convention, I cast one unanimous ballot for Herbert W. Irwin, Quartermaster General of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Will you please escort the Quartermaster General, Herbert W. Irwin, to this station.

Quartermaster General IRWIN. Thank you very much, comrades. The most beautiful thing is that I don't need to buy a new cap. I would like to thank my wife, but I can't afford one, and my dog died, so I look to all of you for support. I want to thank you very much. I will try to do a good job. Thank you.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you, Quartermaster General Herbert Irwin.

Yesterday, the name of Samuel C. Pilato was placed in nomination for the office of Judge Advocate General. The floor is now open for nominations for the office of Judge Advocate General. Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

Hearing none, the Chair recognizes John Ray for a motion.

Comrade JOHN RAY (Post 516—New York). I move that nominations for Judge Advocate General be closed and that the Adjutant General be instructed to cast one unanimous ballot for Samuel C. Pilato.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. You have heard the motion. Is there a second?

The Chair recognizes Past Commander-in-Chief Earl Stock.

Past Commander-in-Chief EARL STOCK. I second the motion that nominations be closed and that Sam Pilato be elected as Judge Advocate General.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. You have heard the motion and it has been properly seconded. Is there any discussion on the motion? Hearing none, all in favor will say "aye" those opposed say "nay". The motion carries.

Mr. Adjutant General.

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. As instructed by this delegation, I cast one unanimous ballot for Samuel C. Pilato, as Judge Advocate General of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrade National Sergeant-at-Arms, will you escort the Judge Advocate General, Samuel Pilato, to my station.

Judge Advocate General-Elect PILATO. Commander-in-Chief Rivers, National Officers and Guests:

After having served nine years as the Department Judge Advocate for the great State of New York, I must confess that I aspired to become National Judge Advocate. You, my good comrades, have made that dream come true. I thought I was going to cry, but I guess I am not.

Believe me, I am not only filled with emotion, but I am extremely honored to be able to serve as your Judge Advocate, especially today because I am going to have the privilege of serving under our great new Commander-in-Chief Wally Hogan with whom I had the pleasure of serving as a Department Commander the same year that he and Howard Vander Clute were also Department Commanders.

Comrade Wally, let me tell you that if you call upon me I will do my best to come up with hopefully the right decision. I want to tell you also that I am going to be proud to serve with you and your new team of Jim and Bob.

Before I leave, I would like to acknowledge and thank my Post, my County, my District, the Eastern States Conference and also John Patton, Department Commander Tony Ferrarese, John Ray, and Past Commander-in-Chief Earl Stock, and all of you good comrades who have given me this opportunity to serve as your Judge Advocate General. I will do my best. Thank you.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Yesterday, Edwin T. Wright, from California, was nominated as the Surgeon General. The floor is now open for nominations for the office of Surgeon General. Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

Hearing none, the Chair recognizes Judge Brown Department Commander of California, for a motion.

Comrade JUDGE BROWN (Post 7792—California). I move that you instruct the Adjutant General to cast a unanimous ballot for Edwin T. Wright for Surgeon General of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. You have heard the motion. Is there a second?

Comrade EARL GUNNELS (Post 9242—California). I second that motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. There is a motion and a second on the floor. You have heard the motion. Is there any discussion? Hearing no discussion, all in favor will say "aye"; those opposed "nay". The "ayes" have it.

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, once again as instructed by the delegates at this Convention, I cast one unanimous ballot for Edwin T. Wright, Surgeon General of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. National Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort Surgeon General Edwin T. Wright to my station.

Comrades, sisters and friends, the newly-elected Surgeon General, Edwin T. Wright, from California.

Surgeon General-Elect WRIGHT. I know that I should not really talk very long, but it is somewhat difficult for old professors like myself not to do so because we are used to giving lectures. Well, you are not going to get a lecture, so just relax.

About 12 or 15 years ago, I had the privilege of joining the VFW, and I wanted to know something about the history of this great organization. My information is probably not complete and my research may be somewhat superficial. I wonder where we got the term "comrade," that we frequently use.

I may be wrong, but it seems that perhaps it came about in the following way. We were all comrades on foreign soil. It just seems like a logical and reasonable extension to be comrades in the VFW.

The second thing I would like to mention is that yesterday our Commander-in-Chief shook my hand. That was about 3:00 o'clock, in the afternoon, and he shook it with such vigor that I know he really meant it. I have observed him during this Convention, how he walks and sits and talks. How he acts and reacts when he meets people.

After all, an M.D. ought to know something about people. After all he is in the people business, and if he doesn't like people and he doesn't observe them, he ought to get out of the business. I told our Commander-in-Chief to stay healthy and that is doctor's orders.

He looks so healthy I am not sure he is going to need a doctor, and I may be out of a job. But I do pledge to him and to all of the top management, borrowing a phrase from big business, that I will do what he orders me to do and I will do it with pleasure.

Lastly, four years ago in Dallas, a good comrade came up to me and he said, "Gee, Doc, if I had known that I was going to live so long, I would have taken better care of my health." That told me a lot.

The last thing I am going to say is take care of your health. We need every comrade in this organization. I am privileged to be one of you. Thank you.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Yesterday, the name of Reverend A. G. Parker was placed in nomination for the office of National Chaplain. The floor is again open for nominations for National Chaplain. Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

Hearing none, the Chair recognizes Tony Taylor for the purpose of a motion.



Comrade TONY TAYLOR (Commander, Department of North Carolina). I move that you instruct the Adjutant General to cast a unanimous ballot for Reverend A. G. Parker.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. You have heard the motion.

I recognize Cleve Cox for the purpose of a second to the motion.

Comrade WILLIAM COX (Post 7383—North Carolina). Commander-in-Chief, I second that motion.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. The nominations are closed. You have heard the motion and the second. Do we have any discussion on that motion? Hearing none, all in favor will say "aye"; all opposed "nay". The "ayes" have it.

Mr. Adjutant General.

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, as instructed by the delegates attending this Convention, I cast one unanimous ballot for Reverend A. G. Parker as National Chaplain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrade National Sergeant-at-Arms, will you escort Reverend A. G. Parker to this station. My comrades, the National Chaplain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Reverend A. G. Parker.

National Chaplain-Elect PARKER. I was advised just a few moments ago that I must have an acceptance speech. My answer was that I will have to get one. The older Scriptures teach us, though, he that would be greatest in the kingdom of God must become servant of all.

Comrades and sisters, that is one award that I covet. To you Chaplains, I believe that the office of Chaplain is a working office, an office of service. Once again, the Scriptures sayeth that God is not unjust to forget your labor of love that you have shown in his name, in that he did minister to the saint. And to minister, that is a promise.

We that serve become great. Help me, my comrades and sisters, to serve you with honor in his will to the ultimate goal of glorifying our God. Help me to help you. I thank you so much.

This is my wife, my help mate, Georgia Parker.

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Congratulations to our newly-elected officers for 1989-'90. How about one more round of applause for our elected officers. [Applause.]

We will call to this station the Adjutant General to announce the National Council Members-Elect.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF NATIONAL COUNSEL MEMBERS-ELECT

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. Comrade Sergeant-at-Arms, as I call the roll, will you please place them in position to receive their caps.

We will begin numerically with the Council Members to my left, and behind them, straight across the front of the assemblage, facing the podium.

District No. 1, Chase M. Libby, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

District No. 3, Michael J. Mason, Jr., Maryland and Rhode Island.

District No. 5, William Coleman, Indiana and Missouri.

District No. 7, Carl J. Kaelin, Tennessee and Kentucky.

District No. 9, Preston F. Garris, South Carolina and North Carolina.

District No. 11, Darrell W. Miller, Wisconsin and Iowa.

District No. 13, Robert R. Whipple, Nebraska and Kansas.

District No. 15, Lloyd E. Vanderhoof, New Mexico, Colorado and Arizona.

District No. 17, Donald B. Myers, Utah, Nevada and Oregon.

District No. 19, Joseph Guidry, Sr., Louisiana and Mississippi.

District A, Anthony J. Longo, Pennsylvania.

District B, George R. Cramer, Illinois.

District C, Joseph T. Gumo, New York.

District F, Edward R. Gucwa, Michigan.

District G, Earl W. Gunnels, Jr., California.

District I, Vincent J. Tamburino, New Jersey.

District J, John E. Hamilton, Florida.

Comrade Sergeant-at-Arms, will you kindly escort the Commander-in-Chief-Elect, Wally Hogan, to your station to present the newly-elected Council Members with their caps.

Commander-in-Chief-Elect Wally G. Hogan requests that the Council Members who will be serving their second year on the Council of Administration take the Obligation with the other National Officers during the installation, and also remind you the Council of Administration Meeting will begin immediately following the close of this Convention in Rooms 7-14.

[Whereupon Commander-in-Chief-elect Hogan presented each Council Member with a VFW cap designating the Council District they represented, following which they returned to their places.]

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. Comrades and sisters, I have requested a personal privilege which the Commander-in-Chief has granted. I want to ask our National Band to play, but before they do, I want to tell you how much we appreciate and how indebted we are for the service they render throughout the National Convention.

Indeed, we have a wonderful band, a marching band to which all of us can march quite easily, a band that has provided music and entertainment for many of our National Conventions. The National Organization provides partial expenses for them to attend our National Convention.

They work throughout the year to raise necessary funds in order to come to our Convention to entertain the delegates. May I once again present to you this fine band from Post 47, Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

May we have one final selection before you have to leave this hall.

[Whereupon, the band played a musical rendition.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Comrades, give a round of applause to the Uniontown VFW Band.

[Whereupon, the assembly extended a prolonged rising ovation.]

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. I am going to ask the Commander-in-Chief-Elect Wally Hogan to come to the podium for the purpose of announcement of appointments.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTMENTS BY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF-ELECT  
WALTER HOGAN

Commander-in-Chief-Elect HOGAN. I would like to announce some appointments for the ensuing year.

The Adjutant General will be Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr., Post 6467, New Jersey.

The Chief of Staff, from Wisconsin, and I would like for him to come forward so I can present him with a cap, is Monte Hanson, Post 1621, Wisconsin.

The Inspector General will be Earl Stiner, Jr., Post 3421, Nebraska. Earl, will you come forward, please.

Last, but not least, the man that continues to see that our Convention is conducted in an orderly and efficient manner, the National Sergeant-at-Arms, George S. Sarver, Post 402, Pennsylvania.

REMARKS BY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF RIVERS

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. I don't think that I should make any final remarks, because that sort of reminds me of a final resting place. I hope the good Lord will allow me to be around for a long, long time.

I do want to take this opportunity to express my personal thanks to all of you here and some of the thousands of others who are not here, for the great work you have done this year in the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

During 1988-'89, we had many challenges. We had a presidential election year, hot and heated campaigns, and as always we were thrust in the middle of that, because we have become known as the veterans organization that is willing to stand up and tell it like it is and willing to stand up and take the heat and do what is right for veterans and what is right for this country.

This organization is stronger, and the veterans of this country are better served, and I am convinced that not only are we stronger but we are also freer indeed.

During the past three years, I have had the opportunity to serve with four different people in these chairs. They were Norman Staab, Earl Stock, Jim Kimery and Wally Hogan. To Earl Stock and Norm Staab, I thank you for your guidance and inspiration that you have been to me during these three years.

To my good friends Wally Hogan and Jim Kimery, words cannot express my sincere appreciation for your hard work, for your dedication and what you have done during these years. I certainly wish both of you well, and also now that we have the Hogan-Kimery-Wallace team, I am confident that the VFW will be stronger than we have ever been, and we will have the best year we have ever had in the history of our organization.

Thanks to my own Post in Alexandria, and the State of Louisiana, and all of the states in the Southern Conference for what you have been. I certainly appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve, and I certainly want you to know that I am proud to serve.

In conclusion, our professional staffs, both in Kansas City, headed by our Adjutant General Howard Vander Clute, my sincere appreciation for the way you have conducted the business of this organization.

To my friend, Cooper T. Holt, who departs after more than 40 years of VFW service, for his excellent leadership in our Nation's Capitol, we are all enriched. The nation is stronger, and we as veterans are better served because he passed our way. I know that all of you join with me in wishing him well. My sincere thanks to you, Cooper, wherever you are for all that you have been to not only me but the VFW.

Thank you, everybody. This has been a great Convention, a culmination of a great year. I want to thank all of you that have made this Convention such a success in the way you have conducted your business and the way you have conducted this business meeting.

The resolutions you have given Commander-in-Chief Hogan for the officers to carry out are sound and based on your best judgment, and the finest traditions of VFW debate and discussion. I salute all of you for a great year. I wish you the very best in the years to come.

When I began last year, I had my family present, and as I leave here today, they are with me as well. One last time, allow me to introduce my wife, Connie, and my daughters, Rosalyn and Raegan. Thank you very much, everyone, and God bless you.

[Whereupon, the assembly extended a prolonged rising ovation to Commander-in-Chief Rivers.]

Now, I would ask the Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief Ray Gallagher, to join me at this station.

#### INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. We will now proceed with the Installation of Officers. National Officers-Elect, you will advance and assume your positions to the left of the officers now occupying the respective stations to which you have been elected.

National Chief of Staff, you will escort the Installing Officer to the position on my right.

Installing Officer GALLAGHER. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, the term to which you and your subordinate officers were elected or appointed has now expired. It is my duty to ascertain the following: Have the officers for the ensuing year been duly elected?

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. They have.

Installing Officer GALLAGHER. Are the funds in the hands of the Quartermaster General ready to be turned over to his successor when duly installed?

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. They are.

Installing Officer GALLAGHER. And have you the charter in your possession?

Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. I have.

Installing Officer GALLAGHER. You will now surrender the charter to me.

Commander-in-Chief Larry Rivers, you can be real proud. You have had a good year. You have now been relieved of your duties as Commander-in-Chief, and it is proper to remind you in assuming the Chair of Past Commander-in-Chief that it will be your duty and your privilege to counsel and otherwise assist your successor



through the experience that you have gained during your term in office. You will now station yourself to my right.

National Aide-de-Camp, you will now present the officers-elect at the alter. The Adjutant General will read the list.

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. These will be the officers for 1989-'90:

Commander-in-Chief, Walter G. Hogan.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, James L. Kimery.

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Robert E. Wallace.

Adjutant General, Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.

Quartermaster General, Herbert W. Irwin.

Judge Advocate General, Samuel C. Pilato.

Surgeon General, Dr. Edwin T. Wright.

National Chaplain, Reverend A. G. Parker.

National Chief of Staff, Monte T. Hanson.

Inspector General, Earl Stiner, Jr.

The following members of the National Council of Administration, upon hearing your name called, will approach the alter.

District No. 1, Chase M. Libby.

District No. 2, Theodore R. Eaton.

District No. 3, Michael J. Mason, Jr.

District No. 4, Joseph L. Eckrich, Sr.

District No. 5, William Coleman.

District No. 6, John F. Bennett.

District No. 7, Carl J. Kaelin.

District No. 8, James L. Allgood.

District No. 9, Preston F. Garriss.

District No. 10, Robert H. Keys, Sr.

District No. 11, Darrell W. Miller.

District No. 12, John L. Mergenthal.

District No. 13, Robert R. Whipple.

District No. 14, Harold E. Meek.

District No. 15, Lloyd E. Vanderhoof.

District No. 16, Marion Lasater.

District No. 17, Donald B. Myers.

District No. 19, Joseph Guidry, Sr.

District A, Anthony P. Longo.

District B, George R. Cramer.

District C, Joseph T. Gumo.

District D, John E. Moon.

District E, Larry G. Ziebarth.

District F, Edward R. Gucwa.

District G, Earl W. Gunnels, Jr.

District H, Earnest G. Mudd.

District I, Vincent J. Tamburino.

District J, John E. Hamilton.

Past Commander-in-Chief, Larry W. Rivers.

Comrade Installing Officer, this completes the list of Officers-Elect.

Installing Officer GALLAGHER. National Officers-Elect of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I will administer to you the Obligation. You will raise your right hand, touch the flag of our country with your left hand, and repeat after me.

[Whereupon, the following Officers' Obligation was given at this time:]

I do hereby solemnly promise that I will faithfully discharge to the best of my ability the duties of the office to which I have been elected or appointed according to the Constitution, Bylaws and Ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. I solemnly promise that at the close of the term to which I have been elected or appointed, or sooner if so ordered by proper authority, I will surrender immediately to only the duly authorized person or persons, all records, money or other properties of this organization in my possession or under my control. All this I freely promise, upon my honor as a loyal citizen of our great Republic. So help me God.

Installing Officer GALLAGHER. Chaplain, will you come to the podium for the prayer.

[Whereupon, National Chaplain Hosmer gave the Prayer from the Ritual.]

Installing Officer GALLAGHER. National Aide-de-Camp, you will escort the officers to their respective stations. National Officers and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, you now occupy the position of honor to which your comrades have elected you.

Learn well the responsibilities entrusted to you so that you may intelligently discharge the duties you are to undertake. My friends, the Constitution, Ritual and By-Laws of our organization prescribe in detail the duties of your respective offices. By virtue of the confidence placed in you through your election or appointment, we assume that you will thoroughly familiarize yourself with your duties.

Commander-in-Chief, Walter G. Hogan, before administering your Obligation, I want to properly remind you of certain duties. You will be held personally responsible for the charter of this organization and at the end of the term you will deliver it to the officer that you have appointed to install your successor.

It is your duty to see that all National Officers perform their duties to the best of their ability. You shall keep yourself informed on all of the proposed legislation which may affect the welfare of the comrades of this organization. Strive for adoption only of those measures which will be beneficial.

You will be required to devote all of your time to the many duties of your office. You are expected to make a special study of the Constitution, the Ritual and the By-Laws of this organization so that you may render a firm and impartial decision on important questions referred to you.

As Commander-in-Chief you will be regarded by your comrades and by the general public as typifying wise and vigorous leadership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. You have an inspiring team and you are an inspiring leader. May you and your team, through your efforts and accomplishments bring credit to your organization.

Are you ready and willing to assume your solemn Obligation?

Commander-in-Chief-Elect HOGAN. I am.

Installing Officer GALLAGHER. You will raise your right hand, touch the flag of our country with your left hand, give your name as I touch your hand, and repeat after me.

[Whereupon, the Commander-in-Chief Hogan received the following Obligation:]

In the presence of Almighty God and the Officers and Delegates of this Order, here assembled, I, Walter G. Hogan, do hereby solemnly promise that I will faithfully discharge, to the best of my ability, the duties of the office of Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to which I have been elected, in accordance with the Constitution, Ritual and By-Laws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. I solemnly promise that at the close of the term to which I have been elected, or sooner if so ordered by proper authority, I will surrender immediately to only the duly authorized person or persons the National Charter, all records, money and other properties of this organization in my possession or under my control. I do further solemnly promise that I will be fair and impartial in my actions toward all comrades, and I will always strive to promote the best interests of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. So help me God.

Installing Officer GALLAGHER. Council Members, you will resume your station. National Aide-de-Camp, you will escort the Commander-in-Chief to this station.

Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I now place in your possession our charter. Also, I present to you this gavel, which is the emblem of your authority. Use it firmly, but with discretion.

National Officers and VFW members, extend your right hand in front of you to the Commander-in-Chief and repeat after me: "I pledge my sincere allegiance."

Now that you have done that and promised your allegiance to the Commander-in-Chief, Wally would like to have you all go home and start working on membership.

Comrade Commander-in-Chief Wally Hogan, Officers and Delegates of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I now proclaim the National Officers duly installed and this organization in working order for the ensuing year.

#### PRESENTATION OF PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF LAPEL PIN AND GOLD LIFE MEMBERSHIP CARD

Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. Larry, will you come forward, please. Larry, I am indeed honored to present you with your Past Commander-in-Chief Lapel Pin and Gold Life Membership Card, and personally thank you for the two years I have served with you. It has been an experience, and I thank you for your kindness and friendship, and wish you well in your new venture.

Past Commander-in-Chief RIVERS. Thank you very much.

#### ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF HOGAN

Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. First of all, there are some very special people I would like to introduce. I would ask that you hold your applause until they are all standing, and those people, of course, are members of my family.

First of all, I have my son, Dennis, and his wife, Patty. This is my daughter Diane. Her husband is a coach back in Wisconsin and he wasn't able to attend.

Next is my son Jeff, and his wife, Terry. My son, Terry, and his wife, Donna, who is going to present me with my fourth grandchild after the first of the year.

My youngest daughter, Tracy, and of course, we have with us Shirley's brother, Frank, and his fiancée, Maria, and Frank's son, Greg. We also have some very special cousins with us today. Kathy and Jerry Langenohl and their son, Mike.

Of course, last but not least, and last night as I traveled to the various conferences I mentioned the number of years we have been married, and Shirley said, "Tomorrow will you just say many years." I am pleased to present my right arm and one who supported me all these years, my wife, Shirley.

Of course, to my Post, 6498, and the Ladies Auxiliary, will you please stand. Then, of course, the State of Wisconsin for all their support. Also to the Big Ten Conference for their support. Thank you very much.

Last but not least, this group of fellows here before me, my Honor Guard. Thank you very much.

Today, as called for by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Constitution and By-Laws, the mantle of responsibility leading this great Veterans Organization passes to a fellow member.

I am honored—and humbled—this morning to stand before you to accept your vote of confidence in designating me to serve you as your National Commander-in-Chief.

I want to particularly thank the members of my Post and Auxiliary in Milwaukee, Wisconsin—Post 6498—who helped bring me to this point. I must also thank the Department of Wisconsin and the Big Ten Conference for their backing and, of course, the other conferences for their support. Thanks also to those great ladies of the Auxiliary whose active programs and support have helped me and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Certainly a special thanks to my wife Shirley and my family whose love, support and understanding, and their belief in me and our Veterans of Foreign Wars, made it possible for me to attain this high position.

I am proud to serve and proud to be a member of this vibrant organization—the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the VFW—an organization of people who believe in America—people who will stand up for what is right for America—people who will stand up for what is right for veterans—and people who will stand up for what is right for our flag—and if right means a Constitutional Amendment then that is what your Veterans of Foreign Wars will and shall support.

Today we conclude our 90th National Convention; but today also marks the Veterans of Foreign Wars' entry into its 10th decade as an organization dedicated to protecting veterans' entitlements and a strong national defense. Through the years, the Veterans of Foreign Wars achieved success because of the size, commitment and determination of its membership. But let's not be fooled, become complacent or indifferent because of recent or past achievements.

In the days and months ahead we will be faced with issues and challenges that will seek to undermine the very fabric of programs and activities that are vital to America's 27 million veterans.

In the days and months ahead—we will be challenged by skeptics and those indifferent to the needs of America's veterans—indifferent to the aging or homeless veteran, complacent about the veteran who in need of care is being turned away from the doors of our VA Hospitals, and those unconcerned about the veteran suffering the ill-effects of Agent Orange or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Equally important in the days and months ahead are the challenges we face by those who are indifferent to the threats to Amer-



ica's security; or those who are indifferent to our steadfast commitment to resolve the important issue of America's POW-MIAs.

Today marks a new beginning for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. A new beginning not only for me, but a new beginning for many who also served as Post, District and State Commanders. Together with our united strength—the strength of more than two-million members—we are prepared to face the tasks ahead. When the Veterans of Foreign Wars' membership is committed, challenges are obstacles which can and will be overcome.

As your Commander-in-Chief, I pledge to maintain that continuity of leadership which has allowed the Veterans of Foreign Wars to fulfill its commitment to America, its veterans and its citizens. I pledge, that as an organization of men and women who know and have experienced the ravages of war, the Veterans of Foreign Wars will not only continue to serve the needs of America's veterans but will also serve as a watchdog of our national defense; reminding whomever necessary that when it comes to our nation's national security, unpreparedness and weakness will not and shall not be tolerated.

To those of you seated here this morning and to our members across this great land, I want you to know we are a generation of Americans who have never known a period of real world peace. All our adult life we have experienced and known only war or the threat of war—and on a level of destructiveness that could not be imagined when our organization was founded 90 years ago.

However, today seems to offer new opportunities to reduce the destructiveness and threat of war. We are seeing dramatic changes in the Communist world. In Poland, Hungary and the other countries of Eastern Europe, new democratic movements are taking hold. In Communist China, the voices of freedom have been stifled but they have not been silenced. Changes are transforming the Communist world.

For more than 40 years the Veterans of Foreign Wars spoke out loud and clear about the challenge of the Communists' Iron Curtain. With the support and example of our World War II veterans, we in the Veterans of Foreign Wars saw, and met, the challenge of Communist aggression in the mud and bitter cold of Korea.

We served with unflinching steadiness in the steaming hot jungles and mountains in Vietnam. We supported our action in Grenada; and today we continue to speak out loud and clear about the Communist challenge in Central America.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars has been the conscience of this nation whenever and wherever the challenge of Communism arose.

But now, there appears to be real prospects for a new relationship with the Soviet Union, new opportunities to reduce the threat of war, perhaps even new opportunities for a more stable and secure peace.

My concern, however, is that we not let our expectations get ahead of reality; that we not let our hearts lead our heads.

We must, more than ever, remain resolute, strong and avoid weakness. Our own weakness lets opponents grow stronger, and that is no more apparent than it is right now in Central America.

Years of countless debates have only weakened our effort and today the drug lords and dictators are growing stronger. It is time

to overcome this weakness. It is time to stand up for our security interests in Central America. As a nation we cannot retreat from this challenge and we will not surrender—not to drug lords, not to dictators.

We must not allow the challenges that we face to become our reason for indifference or inaction. Whether it is an issue of national security or veterans' entitlements, we must not permit challenges to become road blocks.

This coming year poses major challenges for those of us who work to maintain our nationwide system of veterans' programs, especially health care. Today, veterans' health care is being attacked on many fronts. In the days and months ahead, some hard choices have to be made when it comes to establishing VA health care priorities.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars will support those choices which are right and which do the most for those in need. The Veterans of Foreign Wars will also oppose, with all our resources, those who seek to eliminate or render meaningless the entitlements veterans have earned.

My friends, as we enter this last decade of the century, we are concerned that there are those within the VA who are resisting the realities of a changing health care environment and the medical challenges which face them. While there are unquestionable veterans requiring the most sophisticated of open heart or transplant surgery, the overwhelming majority using VA facilities are chronically ill veterans who require medical care and nurturing.

VA Hospital Directors and Staff Members may be alarmed by the conversion of acute care beds to accommodate the long-term needs of older chronically ill veteran patients; but, these are changes which the VA must face and address.

Additionally, changes in the past decade in medical technology have shifted the emphasis from inpatient to outpatient care and caused a major increase in outpatient work load. Within the VA there has been a corresponding increase in the number of veterans seeking outpatient care; however, the Veterans of Foreign Wars senses a reluctance on the part of some within the Department of Veterans Affairs to accept these changes.

My friends, in the days and months ahead we, in the Veterans of Foreign Wars will remind the VA of its changing priorities—and the Veterans of Foreign Wars will work to ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs makes the necessary changes in order to meet the needs of America's veterans.

We will watch closely as the new Secretary of Veterans Affairs and his staff lobby Congress to create a Commission, a Commission to review the VA health care system and to make a take-it-or-leave-it recommendation to realign resources which may include changes in the VA health care mission.

Even though the Secretary has stated at the outset that closing medical facilities is not the objective of this Commission, our job, the job of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, will be to see that this is not simply a "shell game".

We will watch, with an eagle eye, the Commission's deliberations. Any suggested restructuring must improve the level of and

accessibility to veterans' health care or the Commission will not have the support of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Any suggested restructuring that will advocate closing beds or further reducing the number of beds available to veterans will not be accepted or tolerated by your Veterans of Foreign Wars. The Veterans of Foreign Wars will let neither the VA nor the members of Congress forget their commitment and obligation to America's veterans.

But my friends, today, less than half of the members of the House of Representatives have served in the Armed Forces and the number of veterans in the Senate is also shrinking.

This is not to say we don't have friends in the Congress—for we do. What I am saying is we are being challenged more and more to get our message of the entitlements veterans have earned to all members of Congress, whether veterans or non-veterans.

What I am saying is we are also being challenged in our efforts to retain those benefits and entitlements by those who are bent on reducing the deficit on the backs of veterans. This, the Veterans of Foreign Wars cannot and will not tolerate!

Nowhere was this attack on veterans more evident than this past June. The Department of Veterans Affairs was on the verge of running out of money and President Bush requested a "dire emergency supplemental appropriation" so veterans could continue to receive health care.

This is not something new but this year there was a new twist! Veterans in need were being held hostage to the whims of a Congress bent on pushing its own pork-barrel spending programs. It absolutely defies belief that a member of Congress would even consider standing in the way of veterans receiving health care—but, that's just what happened.

In the end, after five long months, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and America's veterans won. But the effects of that delay will be felt for months and years to come.

Today, we are faced with a fiscal year '90 budget that contains the largest number of dollars of any previous year—\$30 billion. It may be more dollars but those dollars are buying less and less health care for veterans! As a matter of fact, the services provided by this budget will fall below the services provided in 1988. It's no secret, there has been practically no gain whatsoever. It's simple inflation.

It will continue to be an uphill battle in the months and years ahead and your Veterans of Foreign Wars will demand your personal involvement. A strong membership speaking with one voice ensures that neither veterans nor their loved ones will go without the care or means they need and have earned.

Together, as the Veterans of Foreign Wars enters this decade of the '90s and begins the journey toward its centennial anniversary, we are grateful to those who served the Veterans of Foreign Wars unselfishly and who paved the way for its greatness. Today, let's reaffirm our commitment as members of this great veterans group to continue the work of those whom we follow. Be proud to serve.

"Proud To Serve" embodies an ongoing commitment and dedication that are the hallmarks of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. "Proud To Serve" means people helping people; people serving

their nation unselfishly; people who, by giving of themselves, make the quality of life in this country a little better than they found it. That, my friends, is what the VFW is all about and that is why we are "Proud To Serve."

[Whereupon, the assembly extended a prolonged rising ovation to Commander-in-Chief Hogan.]

#### CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. Members of the National Council of Administration are reminded the Council Meeting will convene immediately following the close of business and adjournment of this Convention. Tonight, a reception will be held in this room, Barron Ballroom, Hilton Center, Las Vegas Hilton Hotel, for our newly-installed Commander-in-Chief, Wally G. Hogan, and the newly-installed National President of the Ladies Auxiliary, Alice Hutto. The reception will begin at 8:00 o'clock p.m.

#### PARADE OF TRANSMITTALS/REPORT OF NEW POSTS

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. I will call the roll of Departments. As your state is called, the Commander or his representative will report the number of paid 1990 members and number of new Posts that have been organized to the Commander-in-Chief.

[Whereupon, the Commander of each Department presented membership transmittals to the Commander-in-Chief.]

#### CLOSING CEREMONIES

Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. We are ready to Retire the Colors and close the Business Session.

Comrade ART MORIN (Post 2692—New Jersey). Since the business of this Convention has been completed, I move that the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States be closed sine die.

Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. Is there a second to the motion?

Comrade DONALD CUNNINGHAM (Post 7591—Wisconsin). I second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. Thank you. You have heard the motion. All in favor will signify by saying "aye"; all opposed. The "ayes" have it.

Sergeant-at-Arms, will you please prepare for the closing ceremonies.

[Whereupon, National Chaplain Parker gave the Closing Prayer from the Ritual.]

Sergeant-at-Arms SARVER. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, the Closing Ceremonies have been performed.

Commander-in-Chief HOGAN. I now declare the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars closed.

[Whereupon, the Convention was duly adjourned at 11:50 o'clock a.m., sine die.]



## NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEES

### COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL BY-LAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AND RITUAL

Chairman: John J. Stang, Past Commander-in-Chief, Kansas

Vice Chairman: John S. Staum, Past Commander-in-Chief,  
Minnesota

| Department           | Name                    | Post No.        |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Alabama              | Joe Panell              | 8600            |
| California           | James R. Rowoldt        | 10040           |
| Colorado             | Victor B. Grandy        | Judge Adv. Gen. |
| Connecticut          | Edward L. Burnham       | 1724            |
| District of Columbia | Paul E. Wampler, Jr.    | 833             |
| Florida              | Raymond D. Brennan, Jr. | 10131           |
| Florida              | John M. Carney          | 4643            |
| Florida              | Lester W. Davis         | 10093           |
| Florida              | Charles A. Whiteacre    | 10208           |
| Illinois             | George R. Cramer        | 6869            |
| Illinois             | Vernon A. Soukup        | 8081            |
| Indiana              | James J. Thiel          | 717             |
| Indiana              | E. Spencer Walton       | 360             |
| Iowa                 | Darrel W. Miller        | 1565            |
| Kansas               | Roger H. Sellers        | 6654            |
| Kansas               | Raymond N. Stotler      | 1714            |
| Kentucky             | W. J. Cannon            | 5712            |
| Kentucky             | John Paul Jones         | 1993            |
| Maine                | Chase M. Libby          | 6859            |
| Maine                | Peter F. Miesburger     | 9389            |
| Maryland             | James M. McGuire        | 6775            |
| Massachusetts        | Theodore R. Eaton       | C of A          |
| Massachusetts        | Michael J. Imbrascio    | 369             |
| Michigan             | Edmond R. Gucwa         | 6896            |
| Minnesota            | Alcuin G. Loehr         | 4847            |
| Mississippi          | Bernard McClelland      | 2618            |
| Mississippi          | Johnnie Sartor          | 5573            |
| Missouri             | Lawrence M. Maher       | 4050            |
| Missouri             | Melvin L. Page, Sr.     | 2069            |
| Montana              | John W. Mahan           | Past C-in-C     |
| Montana              | Thomas Pouliot          | 1116            |
| Nebraska             | Jack Armagost           | 4836            |
| New Hampshire        | Fred Harvey             | 9347            |
| New Hampshire        | Robert Schulenburg      | 1088            |
| New Jersey           | Robert E. Wallace       | C of A          |
| New Jersey           | Frank G. Halin          | 453             |
| New Jersey           | Arthur Morin            | 2692            |
| New York             | Ross R. Henry           | 125             |
| New York             | Edward Papantonio       | 546             |
| North Dakota         | Kent Anderson           | 9068            |
| Ohio                 | George D. Miller        | 1275            |
| Pennsylvania         | Louis G. Feldmann       | Past C-in-C     |
| Pennsylvania         | Joseph Salvo            | 5267            |
| South Dakota         | Kenneth L. Nelson       | 1273            |
| Tennessee            | David C. Doten, Jr.     | 1965            |

| Department      | Name                       | Post No. |
|-----------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Tennessee.....  | Otha M. Kerr, Jr.....      | 5266     |
| Texas.....      | Charles L. Cannon, Jr..... | 5076     |
| Texas.....      | Glen M. Gardner.....       | 3359     |
| Texas.....      | Edward J. Krenek.....      | 8787     |
| Vermont.....    | Merritt Edwards.....       | 9653     |
| Virginia.....   | Otis N. Berry.....         | 637      |
| Washington..... | John Uram.....             | 10018    |
| Wisconsin.....  | Monte D. Hanson.....       | 1621     |

## COMMITTEE ON AMERICANISM AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Chairman: Arthur J. Fellwock, Past Commander-in-Chief, Indiana

Vice Chairman: Earl L. Stock, Jr., Past Commander-in-Chief, New York

| Department                | Name                         | Post No. |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------|
| Alabama.....              | Charles Stephens.....        | 3128     |
| Alaska.....               | Richard F. Brogan.....       | 9785     |
| Alaska.....               | John Guinn.....              | 10041    |
| Arizona.....              | Christian L. Hammond.....    | C of A   |
| Arizona.....              | Stephen Gori.....            | 10005    |
| Arizona.....              | Harry A. Kosht.....          | 4903     |
| Arizona.....              | Donald E. Maynard.....       | 9399     |
| Arizona.....              | Selah E. Morey.....          | 9401     |
| Arkansas.....             | Robert H. Keys.....          | C of A   |
| Arkansas.....             | John Haynie.....             | 2413     |
| Arkansas.....             | Herman Charles Phillips..... | 5225     |
| Arkansas.....             | Charles Wright.....          | 9347     |
| California.....           | C. W. Kelly.....             | C of A   |
| California.....           | Ron Branham.....             | 7243     |
| California.....           | Irving M. Davies.....        | 2680     |
| California.....           | John L. Graves.....          | 10040    |
| California.....           | Earl W. Gunnels Jr.....      | 9242     |
| California.....           | Richard Hlebasko.....        | 10049    |
| California.....           | Bill Kelley.....             | 5867     |
| California.....           | Raymond C. Sisk.....         | 97       |
| California.....           | John Walters.....            | 10040    |
| Colorado.....             | Raymond Ammerman.....        | 3631     |
| Colorado.....             | Mike Bokan.....              | 1771     |
| Colorado.....             | Donald A. Nikkel.....        | 1        |
| Colorado.....             | Gerald R. Rhoads.....        | 1        |
| Connecticut.....          | Cyprien Cyr.....             | 5847     |
| Connecticut.....          | Chester D. Hanson.....       | 10251    |
| Connecticut.....          | Alfred Harrison.....         | 9929     |
| Connecticut.....          | Americo J. Tancredi.....     | 9929     |
| Delaware.....             | Joseph A. Bradley.....       | 7447     |
| Delaware.....             | E. Hart Davis.....           | 838      |
| Delaware.....             | Ronald L. Mosher, Jr.....    | 3420     |
| Delaware.....             | William G. Schaen.....       | 475      |
| District of Columbia..... | Walter A. Knauss.....        | 1085     |
| Europe.....               | Larry Bingaman.....          | 9781     |
| Europe.....               | Harold Hedges.....           | 9334     |
| Florida.....              | Dillard Akers.....           | 3064     |
| Florida.....              | Frank W. Bower.....          | 8189     |
| Florida.....              | Raymond W. Clift.....        | 10097    |
| Florida.....              | Thomas A. Donnelly.....      | 8696     |
| Florida.....              | John N. Fabbro.....          | 4206     |
| Florida.....              | Hasley H. Hart, Sr.....      | 5405     |
| Florida.....              | Thomas J. Langan.....        | 4289     |

| Department    | Name                     | Post No.   |
|---------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Florida       | C. N. Merinkers          | 706        |
| Florida       | Harold G. Schult         | 4643       |
| Florida       | Harry Shenloogian        | 8696       |
| Georgia       | Julian M. Brisendine     | 5290       |
| Georgia       | General M. Crumley       | 7720       |
| Georgia       | William Wilson           | 7007       |
| Hawaii        | Melvin E. Mossman        | 4951       |
| Idaho         | Glenn Fuhrman            | 63         |
| Idaho         | Walter R. Parker         | 735        |
| Illinois      | Dr. Raymond W. Schlueter | Surg. Gen. |
| Illinois      | James W. Felton          | 5535       |
| Illinois      | Robert A. Jones          | 1596       |
| Illinois      | Tiger Miller             | 2131       |
| Illinois      | Edward Nicholson         | 2153       |
| Indiana       | John S. Etsinger         | 985        |
| Indiana       | Leo R. Reller            | 2366       |
| Indiana       | Steve Shedlock           | 3790       |
| Iowa          | Muriel E. Allan          | 3633       |
| Iowa          | Donald E. Kuehl, Jr      | 2694       |
| Iowa          | Art Weber                | 1623       |
| Iowa          | Patrick H. Wills         | 2642       |
| Kansas        | Carl Christiansen, Jr    | 1372       |
| Kansas        | Harold E. Garrett        | 112        |
| Kansas        | Claude M. Morrow         | 1254       |
| Kansas        | Jay Ritchie              | 1022       |
| Kansas        | Edward H. Sewell         | 6240       |
| Kansas        | Robert R. Whipple        | 846        |
| Kentucky      | Sanford R. Boles         | 7099       |
| Kentucky      | Emmett Johnson           | 5662       |
| Kentucky      | Donald R. Mellon         | 696        |
| Kentucky      | James Watson             | 1913       |
| Louisiana     | James F. Bricker         | 3106       |
| Louisiana     | Edward P. Gros           | 5097       |
| Louisiana     | Paul Renard              | 2130       |
| Maine         | Edward J. Richard, Jr    | 7409       |
| Maryland      | Blair Cross              | 8672       |
| Maryland      | Joseph O. Hansen         | 8950       |
| Maryland      | James Lohman             | 9619       |
| Maryland      | Hugh Shelton             | 482        |
| Maryland      | Gary L. Sprinkel         | 521        |
| Massachusetts | Edgar E. Docherty        | 155        |
| Massachusetts | Walter G. Gansenberg     | 834        |
| Massachusetts | Henry R. Goodwin         | 6712       |
| Massachusetts | T. George Kotros         | 1526       |
| Michigan      | Dale Brubaker            | 3941       |
| Michigan      | Dennis Craycraft         | 4406       |
| Michigan      | Angus R. MacLeod         | 6782       |
| Michigan      | Donald Mrdjenovic        | 7573       |
| Minnesota     | Larry G. Ziebarth        | C of A     |
| Minnesota     | Patrick T. Bohmer        | 246        |
| Minnesota     | Mark A. Browne           | 5555       |
| Minnesota     | Robert D. Eliason        | 1852       |
| Minnesota     | Merlin O. Hanson         | 1639       |
| Mississippi   | Doyle Bailey             | 4800       |
| Mississippi   | James E. Baker, Sr       | 4448       |
| Mississippi   | Arthur W. Triplett, Sr   | 2539       |
| Missouri      | Eugene L. Hoeltge        | 5077       |
| Missouri      | Robert C. McNarie        | 1219       |
| Missouri      | Jack Sharp               | 5606       |
| Montana       | Bert Morris              | 5514       |
| Nebraska      | Earl Stiner, Jr          | C of A     |
| Nebraska      | James A. Burns           | 2280       |
| Nebraska      | Vernon L. Fleshman       | 4836       |
| Nebraska      | Clarence Koch            | 6219       |
| Nebraska      | Raymond Wiese            | 4502       |

| Department     | Name                  | Post No. |
|----------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Nevada         | Robert Frankenberg    | 8583     |
| Nevada         | Dennis P. Horton      | 8583     |
| Nevada         | Bernie C. Nelson      | 10057    |
| New Hampshire  | Michael Annis         | 2860     |
| New Hampshire  | Robert Madigan        | 483      |
| New Jersey     | Earl E. Courter       | 3620     |
| New Jersey     | Otto A. Gollon Jr.    | 7679     |
| New Jersey     | Edward Kwik           | 6902     |
| New Mexico     | James E. Coad         | 401      |
| New Mexico     | Lawrence R. Frappier  | 3015     |
| New Mexico     | Antonio B. Grijalva   | 10124    |
| New York       | George Daley          | 6196     |
| New York       | Clifford Galbraith    | 7127     |
| New York       | Samuel C. Pilato      | 307      |
| New York       | George S. Smith       | 53       |
| North Carolina | David W. Farmer       | 2057     |
| North Carolina | Amon F. Harris        | 6018     |
| North Carolina | Randolph Johnson      | 8716     |
| North Carolina | Harlan J. LaBar       | 2057     |
| North Carolina | James C. Lawrence     | 2401     |
| North Carolina | Glenn Milliman        | 2401     |
| North Carolina | Claude Jack Ragan     | 6367     |
| North Carolina | Paul Williams         | 8716     |
| North Dakota   | Jerome R. Berg        | 4221     |
| North Dakota   | Aldon Palmer          | 762      |
| North Dakota   | Fred E. Zerr          | 6833     |
| Ohio           | Richard Ciacchi       | 1082     |
| Ohio           | Fondo Finley          | 1380     |
| Ohio           | George Householder    | 1500     |
| Ohio           | Harold R. Howell      | 9582     |
| Ohio           | George W. Marks       | 352      |
| Oklahoma       | Cecil Caudill         | 382      |
| Oklahoma       | R. F. Sadler          | 4876     |
| Oregon         | Robert A. Bell        | 4943     |
| Oregon         | Charles A. Humphreys  | 293      |
| Oregon         | Ray Kammer, Sr.       | 4362     |
| Pacific Areas  | J. Tyson Dees         | 9685     |
| Pacific Areas  | E. Ralph Milward      | 8830     |
| Panama Canal   | Marion Lasater        | C of A   |
| Panama Canal   | Alan R. Peterson      | 3876     |
| Pennsylvania   | William C. Allen      | 7213     |
| Pennsylvania   | John Angus            | 747      |
| Pennsylvania   | Louis Greco           | 4653     |
| Pennsylvania   | Norman Rettig, Jr.    | 249      |
| Pennsylvania   | Bud Stone             | 1718     |
| Pennsylvania   | E. Burnell Warner     | 2506     |
| Pennsylvania   | John Wojtowicz        | 4789     |
| Rhode Island   | Adrian F. Nadeau      | 263      |
| Rhode Island   | John Sivo             | 2396     |
| South Carolina | William J. Costello   | 641      |
| South Carolina | F. D. Williamson, Jr. | 8760     |
| South Dakota   | Al H. Hall            | 628      |
| South Dakota   | Earl R. Schultz       | 17       |
| South Dakota   | Raymond C. Simpson    | 628      |
| Tennessee      | Marvin Chandler       | 4862     |
| Tennessee      | Charles A. Jones      | 5064     |
| Tennessee      | Russell Richmond      | 1848     |
| Tennessee      | David W. Tipton       | 9629     |
| Texas          | Johnnie L. Alexander  | 3966     |
| Texas          | Arturo P. Garcia      | 8936     |
| Texas          | M. John Knapp         | 8561     |
| Texas          | Shelton G. Meaux      | 6384     |
| Texas          | Johnny Molina         | 4004     |
| Texas          | Edward Z. Rodriguez   | 9186     |
| Texas          | Clifford Teer         | 2148     |



| Department         | Name                    | Post No. |
|--------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| Utah.....          | Gary L. Clark.....      | 7398     |
| Vermont.....       | Curtis E. Brown.....    | C of A   |
| Vermont.....       | William Finn.....       | 6471     |
| Vermont.....       | Ashley Madden.....      | 7779     |
| Virginia.....      | Douglas S. Hayes.....   | 647      |
| Virginia.....      | James E. Higgins.....   | 7059     |
| Virginia.....      | George McCracken.....   | 609      |
| Virginia.....      | Charles A. Webb.....    | 2239     |
| Washington.....    | Robert A. Belote.....   | 2995     |
| Washington.....    | Miles Irvine.....       | 379      |
| West Virginia..... | Richard J. Cooper.....  | 1976     |
| West Virginia..... | Mike Groh.....          | 3112     |
| West Virginia..... | Walter Lawson, Sr.....  | 3112     |
| West Virginia..... | Albert M. Legg.....     | 9738     |
| Wisconsin.....     | Frank Brown.....        | 9362     |
| Wisconsin.....     | John Garner.....        | 8447     |
| Wisconsin.....     | John Hajek.....         | 9202     |
| Wisconsin.....     | Leroy Holzwarth.....    | 7591     |
| Wyoming.....       | John L. Mergenthal..... | C of A   |
| Wyoming.....       | Donald E. Foley.....    | 10105    |

## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

Chairman: Ted C. Connell, Past Commander-in-Chief, Texas

Vice Chairman: Ray Gallagher, Past Commander-in-Chief, South Dakota

| Department                | Name                       | Post No. |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Alabama.....              | James L. Allgood.....      | C of A   |
| Alaska.....               | Edward Frank.....          | 9978     |
| Alaska.....               | Lee Lewis.....             | 5559     |
| Alaska.....               | Miles Pierce.....          | 9785     |
| Arizona.....              | Fred Chapman.....          | 1760     |
| Arizona.....              | James Montgomery.....      | 10308    |
| Arizona.....              | Quinn Weiss.....           | 1760     |
| Arkansas.....             | Charles Hogan.....         | 2259     |
| Arkansas.....             | Verlin Williams.....       | 1991     |
| California.....           | Carl Amundson.....         | 10040    |
| California.....           | Frank M. Borrello.....     | 6874     |
| California.....           | John A. Grimes, III.....   | 9650     |
| California.....           | Stephen C. Hignight.....   | 1267     |
| California.....           | John P. Howard.....        | 9650     |
| California.....           | David M. Huerta.....       | 2001     |
| California.....           | Arthur Napiwocki.....      | 1614     |
| Colorado.....             | Arthur W. Burress.....     | 1        |
| Colorado.....             | George Palmateer.....      | 4171     |
| Colorado.....             | Warren E. Wellensiek.....  | 4171     |
| Connecticut.....          | Leo Beauregard.....        | 5446     |
| Connecticut.....          | Dr. Albert Liebman.....    | 511      |
| Connecticut.....          | Peter E. Olson.....        | 603      |
| Delaware.....             | Lonnie Ashe.....           | 2765     |
| Delaware.....             | Paul R. Phillips.....      | 2863     |
| Delaware.....             | Ira Truitt.....            | 7422     |
| District of Columbia..... | George A. Lange.....       | 2400     |
| Florida.....              | Edwin H. Shuman.....       | C of A   |
| Florida.....              | Richard J. Fitzgerald..... | 7721     |
| Europe.....               | Norman Hirschman.....      | 10592    |
| Florida.....              | John E. Hamilton.....      | 7909     |
| Florida.....              | William Johnson.....       | 5968     |
| Florida.....              | Robert A. Jones.....       | 10285    |
| Florida.....              | Edward L. Kelley.....      | 4351     |

| Department    | Name                  | Post No.      |
|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Florida       | Raymond H. Prentice   | 8058          |
| Florida       | Edward Saunders       | 9184          |
| Florida       | Llewellyn M. Tweed    | 10094         |
| Georgia       | John W. Bohanan       | 5290          |
| Georgia       | Ray E. Brooks         | 2785          |
| Georgia       | Sammy L. Cates        | 5290          |
| Georgia       | H. E. Isaacs          | 4904          |
| Georgia       | William T. McClure    | 4397          |
| Hawaii        | Edward Kaopuiki       | 1549          |
| Idaho         | Harold E. Meek        | C of A        |
| Idaho         | J. Vail Foy           | 2905          |
| Idaho         | Glen Phillips         | 7137          |
| Illinois      | Ray R. Soden          | Past C-in-C   |
| Illinois      | Ed Griffith           | 1301          |
| Illinois      | James Hood            | 1592          |
| Illinois      | Perry Langley         | 1301          |
| Illinois      | George Taylor         | 2580          |
| Indiana       | Paul Roseberry        | 2939          |
| Indiana       | Michael V. Smith      | 2999          |
| Iowa          | Larry J. Bender       | 788           |
| Iowa          | Clinton Hoferman      | 6172          |
| Iowa          | Raymond E. Manatt     | 828           |
| Iowa          | Terry Miller          | 1655          |
| Iowa          | Roger Schwieso        | 941           |
| Iowa          | James Shelton         | 941           |
| Kansas        | J. A. Cheatham        | Past Qm. Gen. |
| Kansas        | Dan P. Dollison       | 1186          |
| Kansas        | Jeff Lawson           | 846           |
| Kansas        | Vernon McVey          | 1022          |
| Kansas        | Troxal K. Mellinger   | 1650          |
| Kansas        | Thomas R. Werner      | 6240          |
| Kentucky      | Roger L. Adams        | 10017         |
| Kentucky      | Walter Goodman        | 1410          |
| Kentucky      | Paul L. Lynd          | 10017         |
| Kentucky      | George B. Thomson     | 4075          |
| Louisiana     | James Burtchael       | 10666         |
| Louisiana     | Richard J. Fruge      | 5153          |
| Louisiana     | James A. Johnson      | 1736          |
| Louisiana     | Samuel R. Johnson     | 4759          |
| Louisiana     | Russell J. Ryder      | 2130          |
| Maine         | Merritt H. Jones      | 6977          |
| Maine         | Albert A. Paul        | 1641          |
| Maryland      | Bruno W. Betro        | 8276          |
| Maryland      | John J. Gistedt       | 2678          |
| Maryland      | Charles L. Graham     | 3285          |
| Maryland      | Lester A. Rule        | 6506          |
| Maryland      | Charles T. Shipley    | 8950          |
| Massachusetts | Eugene Hakala         | 1812          |
| Massachusetts | Gardner S. McWilliams | 2425          |
| Massachusetts | Manual Monteird       | 8074          |
| Massachusetts | James C. Sneyd        | 3169          |
| Michigan      | Irving Wendt          | C of A        |
| Michigan      | Glenn Carnes          | 6132          |
| Michigan      | James Goldsmith       | 5666          |
| Michigan      | John Harrow, Jr       | 3724          |
| Michigan      | Clarence Schumacher   | 3946          |
| Minnesota     | John F. Quint         | 425           |
| Minnesota     | Tony L. Thomas        | 246           |
| Mississippi   | Ivan Bangs            | 2539          |
| Mississippi   | Gordon Estes          | 3962          |
| Mississippi   | Paul Sims             | 4488          |
| Missouri      | Jim McPeters          | 3777          |
| Missouri      | Francis W. St. John   | 3944          |
| Montana       | Kenneth Handl         | 2154          |
| Montana       | Charles Larsen        | 1116          |

| Department          | Name                         | Post No.   |
|---------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| Nebraska.....       | C. C. Blankinship.....       | 2280       |
| Nebraska.....       | Vern Hoffart.....            | 131        |
| Nebraska.....       | Harold McChesney.....        | 7719       |
| Nebraska.....       | Dehryn Reed.....             | 1252       |
| Nebraska.....       | Alvin F. Smallfoot.....      | 759        |
| Nevada.....         | Donald Gustin.....           | 10053      |
| Nevada.....         | Claire Whitehead.....        | 1753       |
| New Hampshire.....  | Carlton A. Lutz.....         | 1088       |
| New Hampshire.....  | John Rubery.....             | 4368       |
| New Jersey.....     | Vincent Brinkerhoff.....     | 335        |
| New Jersey.....     | Robert Hacker.....           | 6590       |
| New Jersey.....     | Thomas J. Lynch.....         | 7508       |
| New Jersey.....     | Bruce MacTaggart.....        | 2319       |
| New Jersey.....     | Vincent J. Tamburino.....    | 2319       |
| New Mexico.....     | Clyde R. Birkla.....         | 3347       |
| New Mexico.....     | Manuel Evaro.....            | 4384       |
| New Mexico.....     | Joe D. Salas.....            | 401        |
| New Mexico.....     | Lloyd E. Vanderhoof.....     | 3370       |
| New York.....       | Edmund A. Davis.....         | 125        |
| New York.....       | John Decker.....             | 1975       |
| New York.....       | Elwood C. Lyndaker.....      | 6912       |
| New York.....       | Vincent J. Siesta.....       | 546        |
| New York.....       | James Wilson.....            | 357        |
| North Carolina..... | Gary Barringer.....          | 9134       |
| North Carolina..... | Dewey W. Beauchamp.....      | 891        |
| North Carolina..... | Ulysees Lawson.....          | 10290      |
| North Carolina..... | Fred Y. Sigmon.....          | 6513       |
| North Dakota.....   | Wallace Bolte.....           | 1326       |
| North Dakota.....   | Harold J. Carnahan.....      | 7564       |
| North Dakota.....   | Richard Grenz.....           | 1326       |
| Ohio.....           | Gary B. Bentfeld.....        | 2799       |
| Ohio.....           | Gerald Gilgenbach.....       | 8847       |
| Ohio.....           | William W. Hawk.....         | 9318       |
| Ohio.....           | William Nicholson.....       | 9927       |
| Ohio.....           | Charles G. Popke, III.....   | 2529       |
| Ohio.....           | Arthur Taber.....            | 1238       |
| Oklahoma.....       | James Newman.....            | 4876       |
| Oklahoma.....       | Robert B. Thomas.....        | 1098       |
| Oregon.....         | Patrick L. Jordan.....       | C of A     |
| Oregon.....         | Doyle Souders.....           | 2807       |
| Oregon.....         | Joe Turpen.....              | 1383       |
| Pacific Areas.....  | Anthony H. Alves, Jr.....    | 10269      |
| Pacific Areas.....  | Paul T. O'Dowd.....          | 9957       |
| Panama Canal.....   | Louis C. Caldwell.....       | 3822       |
| Pennsylvania.....   | William J. Farley.....       | 7654       |
| Pennsylvania.....   | Joseph Koch.....             | 1564       |
| Pennsylvania.....   | Frank Meyers, Sr.....        | 402        |
| Pennsylvania.....   | Raymond C. Mullin.....       | 7294       |
| Rhode Island.....   | Harry E. Ellis.....          | 6342       |
| Rhode Island.....   | Samuel Wolstencroft, Jr..... | 8955       |
| South Carolina..... | Kenneth L. Hartman.....      | Insp. Gen. |
| South Carolina..... | George A. Bopp.....          | 3142       |
| South Carolina..... | Naff Hensley.....            | 2889       |
| South Carolina..... | Daniel Thompson, Jr.....     | 4262       |
| South Dakota.....   | Donald R. Byerly.....        | 1776       |
| South Dakota.....   | Howard Hermanson.....        | 791        |
| South Dakota.....   | William J. Radigan.....      | 3061       |
| Tennessee.....      | George B. Simons.....        | C of A     |
| Tennessee.....      | Henry L. Black.....          | 5266       |
| Tennessee.....      | Roy Farris.....              | 2949       |
| Tennessee.....      | Gary W. Fisher.....          | 2108       |
| Tennessee.....      | R. P. Locke.....             | 5066       |
| Texas.....          | John L. Biles.....           | 8108       |
| Texas.....          | James A. Chancellor.....     | 4695       |
| Texas.....          | Raeul G. Cox.....            | 3359       |

| Department          | Name                       | Post No. |
|---------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Texas .....         | Allan G. Grice .....       | 1475     |
| Texas .....         | Felix Longoria .....       | 6719     |
| Texas .....         | William F. McCord .....    | 2773     |
| Texas .....         | Carlos Z. Mugica .....     | 9186     |
| Texas .....         | Ira Parks, Jr. ....        | 6012     |
| Texas .....         | Johnny J. Sotello .....    | 7207     |
| Texas .....         | George B. Sparkman .....   | 9181     |
| Texas .....         | Connie M. Yates .....      | 8878     |
| Utah .....          | Thomas M. Kennedy .....    | 3586     |
| Vermont .....       | Al Gordon .....            | 782      |
| Vermont .....       | Richard LeMay .....        | 9653     |
| Vermont .....       | Robert W. Martin, Jr. .... | 2571     |
| Virginia .....      | Gerald E. Jonas .....      | 1811     |
| Virginia .....      | Richard J. Kerch .....     | 9274     |
| Virginia .....      | Albert Rodgers .....       | 3103     |
| Virginia .....      | R. Frank Sprinkle .....    | 6975     |
| Virginia .....      | John E. Sullivan .....     | 9274     |
| Virginia .....      | Joseph P. Walsh .....      | 392      |
| Washington .....    | Emanuel Besel .....        | 3617     |
| Washington .....    | Richard Keeton .....       | 2886     |
| Washington .....    | Lee E. Morgan .....        | 3213     |
| Washington .....    | Neal Van Wieringen .....   | 1949     |
| West Virginia ..... | Billie B. Baldwin .....    | 3466     |
| West Virginia ..... | Samuel P. Baldwin .....    | 1212     |
| Wisconsin .....     | James Bausch .....         | 2344     |
| Wisconsin .....     | Byron Cunningham .....     | 7591     |
| Wisconsin .....     | Gordon Richardson .....    | 6003     |
| Wyoming .....       | Boyd K. Snow .....         | 2311     |

## COMMITTEE ON GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

Chairman: R. D. Smith, Jr., Past Commander-in-Chief, Georgia

Vice Chairman: Norman G. Staab, Past Commander-in-Chief,  
Kansas

| Department        | Name                        | Post No. |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Alabama .....     | Clarence A. Gardner .....   | 3407     |
| Alaska .....      | Robert Smith .....          | 9978     |
| Alaska .....      | Jesse Wright .....          | 9978     |
| Arizona .....     | Thomas Dillon .....         | 549      |
| Arizona .....     | David Hurst .....           | 1760     |
| Arizona .....     | Robert W. Lacey .....       | 720      |
| Arkansas .....    | Grady Brown .....           | 4548     |
| Arkansas .....    | Albert J. Roes .....        | 8532     |
| Arkansas .....    | Ray Simmons .....           | 9326     |
| California .....  | S. J. Barricella .....      | 6024     |
| California .....  | John L. Bessaw .....        | 6356     |
| California .....  | George Bellon .....         | 3788     |
| California .....  | Jack E. Carleton .....      | 2111     |
| California .....  | James F. Cook .....         | 3935     |
| California .....  | John P. Gomes .....         | 1537     |
| California .....  | William K. Seay .....       | 2924     |
| California .....  | Kenneth L. Stevens .....    | 9223     |
| California .....  | Jerry Watson .....          | 1744     |
| Colorado .....    | Steve Espinoza .....        | 899      |
| Colorado .....    | John H. Sentena .....       | 4051     |
| Connecticut ..... | John Donovan, Jr. ....      | 2849     |
| Connecticut ..... | Burdett Flynn .....         | 10060    |
| Connecticut ..... | John J. Grogan .....        | 254      |
| Delaware .....    | Joseph L. Eckrich, Sr. .... | C of A   |
| Delaware .....    | Edward Moran .....          | 7447     |



| Department           | Name                   | Post No.       |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Delaware             | George A. Seidle       | 3420           |
| District of Columbia | James C. White         | 7284           |
| Europe               | Elmer L. Matheke       | 9845           |
| Europe               | J. B. Virgil           | 9659           |
| Florida              | James E. Graham        | 2444           |
| Florida              | Norman V. Kaczmarek    | 6925           |
| Florida              | James F. Reynolds, Jr. | 7987           |
| Florida              | Roger G. Thomas, Sr.   | 6925           |
| Florida              | Arthur Wasserman       | 6827           |
| Georgia              | Robert Bates           | 2932           |
| Georgia              | Walter Gunnell, Jr.    | 658            |
| Georgia              | John F. Gwizdak        | 5080           |
| Georgia              | J. E. Land             | 5032           |
| Georgia              | Rance J. Taylor        | 4830           |
| Georgia              | Olin C. Wright         | 7331           |
| Hawaii               | Alfred A. Nakoa        | 3850           |
| Idaho                | Edward W. Holt         | 889            |
| Idaho                | Paul Montgomery        | 3465           |
| Illinois             | Loyd Hyatt             | 2378           |
| Illinois             | Eugene Lewandowski     | 4737           |
| Illinois             | Chris P. Regas         | 3579           |
| Indiana              | George A. Magurany     | C of A         |
| Indiana              | Calvin Ashley          | 1114           |
| Indiana              | John Barnes            | 7119           |
| Indiana              | John J. Fish           | 8972           |
| Indiana              | R. L. Johanningsmeier  | 1257           |
| Indiana              | Ralph Pigman           | 1114           |
| Iowa                 | Victor R. Bloomfield   | 9230           |
| Iowa                 | James L. Cates         | 2253           |
| Iowa                 | Kenneth Johnston       | 788            |
| Iowa                 | W. P. Shannon          | 733            |
| Kansas               | Barney M. Aldridge     | 1432           |
| Kansas               | Jesse F. Cook          | 3184           |
| Kansas               | Gordon E. Good         | 2993           |
| Kansas               | Clyde H. Hatcher       | 1254           |
| Kansas               | Richard Hill           | 7437           |
| Kansas               | Daryl C. Reeder        | 3449           |
| Kentucky             | Lawrence Henderson     | 5484           |
| Kentucky             | Kenneth E. Krebs       | 2921           |
| Kentucky             | Edgar Troutman         | 6097           |
| Louisiana            | William M. Procter     | Chief of Staff |
| Louisiana            | Lester L. Cancienne    | 7194           |
| Louisiana            | Ashton J. Dronet       | 5097           |
| Louisiana            | Stanley J. Plessala    | 4222           |
| Louisiana            | Landry Saucier         | 1736           |
| Maine                | Albert E. Gahagan      | 9389           |
| Maine                | Erlon Rose             | 3335           |
| Maryland             | Nicholas Bassetti      | 9083           |
| Maryland             | Richard W. Bennett     | 9422           |
| Maryland             | John J. Bleyer         | 7460           |
| Maryland             | Daniel Dougherty       | 6027           |
| Maryland             | Thomas L. Kulczak      | 8950           |
| Maryland             | William F. Leonard     | 8276           |
| Maryland             | Michael J. Mason, Sr.  | 3026           |
| Maryland             | Charles McConville     | 521            |
| Maryland             | Edgar J. Woolfenden    | 6694           |
| Massachusetts        | William M. Burns       | 2017           |
| Massachusetts        | Joseph R. Gauthier     | 544            |
| Massachusetts        | Leopold R. Malyszko    | 1046           |
| Massachusetts        | Louis C. Stifano       | 1012           |
| Michigan             | John Dorsky            | 4090           |
| Michigan             | Thomas C. Kaleel       | 1146           |
| Michigan             | Irving M. Spencer      | 3323           |
| Minnesota            | Richard Carroll        | 8217           |
| Minnesota            | Harold Genrich         | 1222           |

| Department          | Name                     | Post No. |
|---------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Minnesota.....      | Joseph E. Jeanette.....  | 137      |
| Minnesota.....      | Ted Theodorsen.....      | 246      |
| Mississippi.....    | A. O. Cummings.....      | C of A   |
| Mississippi.....    | David Burgess.....       | 3373     |
| Mississippi.....    | Roy Colston.....         | 3962     |
| Mississippi.....    | A. David Grimes.....     | 4057     |
| Mississippi.....    | Harmon B. Lewis.....     | 3253     |
| Mississippi.....    | Tom Lowe.....            | 2567     |
| Missouri.....       | William L. Dorsey.....   | 3777     |
| Missouri.....       | Clyde E. Williams.....   | 534      |
| Missouri.....       | Ron Wooderson.....       | 8220     |
| Montana.....        | Clarence LaBrie.....     | 276      |
| Montana.....        | Terry W. Lambert.....    | 8017     |
| Montana.....        | Ed Lyng.....             | 5609     |
| Nebraska.....       | Lee K. Andrews.....      | 8334     |
| Nebraska.....       | Herbert D. Cornell.....  | 3421     |
| Nebraska.....       | Robert W. Hild.....      | 8334     |
| Nebraska.....       | Dale E. Karloff.....     | 8334     |
| Nevada.....         | Mike Musgrove.....       | 3848     |
| Nevada.....         | Claude Roberts.....      | 8583     |
| New Hampshire.....  | Jerry Parenti.....       | 8546     |
| New Hampshire.....  | Robert St. Onge.....     | 8214     |
| New Jersey.....     | Duke Gallagher.....      | 7679     |
| New Jersey.....     | Fred Madsen.....         | 2636     |
| New Jersey.....     | Walter F. Merklin.....   | 5698     |
| New Jersey.....     | Donnie Wine.....         | 6590     |
| New Mexico.....     | Wayne H. Joyner.....     | 6917     |
| New Mexico.....     | Margarito Maes.....      | 1547     |
| New York.....       | Ralph U. DeMarco.....    | 885      |
| New York.....       | William Grattan.....     | 729      |
| New York.....       | Joseph T. Gumo.....      | 1582     |
| New York.....       | Wolfgang J. Nauke.....   | 1469     |
| New York.....       | Robert E. Spoonley.....  | 2940     |
| New York.....       | Thomas Young.....        | 1505     |
| North Carolina..... | Frank Durbino.....       | 9133     |
| North Carolina..... | Stacey S. Foster.....    | 3074     |
| North Carolina..... | Barry Pearce.....        | 5483     |
| North Dakota.....   | Paul S. Aaberg.....      | 6139     |
| North Dakota.....   | Everett E. DeMoss.....   | 3363     |
| North Dakota.....   | Calmer Overlee.....      | 9368     |
| Ohio.....           | Robert Bishop.....       | 1031     |
| Ohio.....           | Paul K. Crosby.....      | 3424     |
| Ohio.....           | Danny Crow.....          | 2529     |
| Ohio.....           | Carl Reed.....           | 10228    |
| Ohio.....           | Albert Seigel.....       | 7230     |
| Ohio.....           | Henry Shackleton.....    | 5137     |
| Ohio.....           | Craig Swartz.....        | 2947     |
| Oklahoma.....       | William P. Beane.....    | 4977     |
| Oklahoma.....       | William Holland.....     | 4876     |
| Oklahoma.....       | Roy Vier.....            | 1118     |
| Oklahoma.....       | Gary L. Warren.....      | 2976     |
| Oklahoma.....       | William H. Willhite..... | 989      |
| Oregon.....         | James Abbott.....        | 4108     |
| Oregon.....         | Leon H. Bennett.....     | 1325     |
| Oregon.....         | Garrett Cooke.....       | 4015     |
| Oregon.....         | Ole Herwick.....         | 907      |
| Oregon.....         | Jack Kelly.....          | 3973     |
| Pacific Areas.....  | Luther W. Harmon.....    | 1509     |
| Pacific Areas.....  | Roger O. Schroer.....    | 9681     |
| Pennsylvania.....   | Americo DiLoretto.....   | 3614     |
| Pennsylvania.....   | Michael Levy.....        | 283      |
| Pennsylvania.....   | John J. Moran.....       | 840      |
| Rhode Island.....   | Armondo C. Azzinaro..... | 8955     |
| Rhode Island.....   | Andrew J. Blanda.....    | 8955     |
| Rhode Island.....   | John A. Bucci.....       | 10011    |

| Department          | Name                             | Post No. |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| South Carolina..... | Henry S. Allen, Sr.....          | C of A   |
| South Carolina..... | William J. Jolin.....            | 5996     |
| South Carolina..... | Donald E. McKinley.....          | 3433     |
| South Carolina..... | William L. Owens.....            | 3447     |
| South Dakota.....   | John A. Hurney.....              | 628      |
| South Dakota.....   | Robert J. Petrik.....            | 7319     |
| South Dakota.....   | Harold O. Weber.....             | 1273     |
| Tennessee.....      | Leon G. Henry.....               | 4916     |
| Texas.....          | Earnest G. Mudd.....             | C of A   |
| Texas.....          | T. R. Dykes, Jr.....             | 5399     |
| Texas.....          | Vernon R. Friday.....            | 3990     |
| Texas.....          | M. Z. Gandy.....                 | 6796     |
| Texas.....          | Pedro Guzman.....                | 5873     |
| Texas.....          | Jeffery S. Hillis.....           | 4380     |
| Texas.....          | Robert G. Langston.....          | 9174     |
| Texas.....          | Robert J. Lyons.....             | 8246     |
| Texas.....          | James P. Montgomery.....         | 7871     |
| Texas.....          | Nolan T. Murr.....               | 1475     |
| Utah.....           | Reverend Thomas J. Meersman..... | 7442     |
| Utah.....           | Bishop Boyd W. Winterton.....    | 4355     |
| Vermont.....        | Robert H. Dean, Sr.....          | 9653     |
| Vermont.....        | Fred LaDue.....                  | 792      |
| Vermont.....        | William O. Maskell.....          | 778      |
| Vermont.....        | Lynn P. Shepard.....             | 6689     |
| Virginia.....       | John L. Fanshaw.....             | 7819     |
| Virginia.....       | Robert N. Lamp.....              | 9808     |
| Virginia.....       | Harry H. Spielman.....           | 2123     |
| Virginia.....       | Kenneth J. Vitale.....           | 2163     |
| Washington.....     | Ed Edmiston.....                 | 10018    |
| West Virginia.....  | Richard J. Cooper.....           | 1976     |
| West Virginia.....  | David E. Malone.....             | 6667     |
| West Virginia.....  | John P. Morgan.....              | 3526     |
| West Virginia.....  | William H. Smith.....            | 573      |
| Wisconsin.....      | Charles Arndt.....               | C of A   |
| Wisconsin.....      | Art Dornstreich.....             | 388      |
| Wisconsin.....      | Matthias Mayer.....              | 6498     |
| Wisconsin.....      | George Pfielsticker.....         | 305      |
| Wisconsin.....      | Arthur Schultz.....              | 305      |
| Wisconsin.....      | Roger W. Sydow.....              | 388      |
| Wyoming.....        | Brad Stromme.....                | 3628     |

## COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Chairman: Dr. John Wasylik, Past Commander-in-Chief, Ohio

Vice Chairman: H. R. Rainwater, Past Commander-in-Chief, California

### POW/MIA SUBCOMMITTEE

Chairman: Billy Ray Cameron, Past Commander-in-Chief, North Carolina

Vice Chairman: James R. Currieo, Past Commander-in-Chief, Arizona

| Department   | Name              | Post No. |
|--------------|-------------------|----------|
| Alabama..... | Raven Hughes..... | 924      |
| Alaska.....  | Gene Corbin.....  | 9365     |

| Department           | Name                 | Post No. |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Alaska               | Larry Patch          | 2509     |
| Arizona              | Allen F. Kent        | 9972     |
| Arizona              | Ernest E. Melendez   | 426      |
| Arizona              | Everett R. Sprague   | 549      |
| Arizona              | Thomas Stephenson    | 9972     |
| Arkansas             | Karl Ford            | 2259     |
| Arkansas             | Leslie Thone         | 3141     |
| California           | Renie J. Champagne   | 8750     |
| California           | Robert S. Fontenot   | 5394     |
| California           | Joseph F. Martin     | 9223     |
| California           | Kenneth Robbins      | 85       |
| California           | Harry Tanabe         | 9879     |
| California           | Walter W. Thompson   | 5059     |
| Colorado             | James A. Bonito      | 1        |
| Colorado             | Henry Reed           | 3917     |
| Colorado             | Tony A. Wasinger     | 9644     |
| Connecticut          | Henry J. Lefevre     | 9965     |
| Connecticut          | Terrence Moore       | 9460     |
| Delaware             | George R. Haley      | 8801     |
| Delaware             | Louis Walls          | 5447     |
| District of Columbia | Michael Riordan, Jr. | 1830     |
| Europe               | J. R. Llewelyn       | 3885     |
| Europe               | Marvin L. Snyder     | 3885     |
| Florida              | Paul A. Calhoun, Jr. | 4287     |
| Florida              | James W. Carlisle    | 10097    |
| Florida              | Ronald G. Lee        | 10093    |
| Florida              | Herbert D. Purvis    | 2380     |
| Florida              | Clarence J. Smuder   | 7721     |
| Georgia              | T. D. Culpepper      | 5032     |
| Georgia              | Jim Fulbright        | 5978     |
| Georgia              | Robert H. Jessup     | 5080     |
| Georgia              | Robert H. Lancaster  | 658      |
| Idaho                | Arnold Howard        | 9036     |
| Illinois             | Thomas Morgan        | C of A   |
| Illinois             | Richard Kutz         | 2486     |
| Illinois             | Paul Peck            | 2257     |
| Illinois             | Frank H. Rice        | 4547     |
| Indiana              | John Dahman          | 1421     |
| Indiana              | Richard L. Jordan    | 2067     |
| Indiana              | Edward F. Sanders    | 360      |
| Indiana              | Lenas G. Weisheit    | 1114     |
| Iowa                 | Ralph R. Johnson     | 1973     |
| Iowa                 | Arthur Maxwell       | 941      |
| Iowa                 | Russell D. Traux     | 5240     |
| Iowa                 | Phillip D. Walsh     | 6172     |
| Kansas               | Charles E. Cook      | 2864     |
| Kansas               | Lynn Hall            | 6240     |
| Kansas               | Jay Herring          | 5531     |
| Kansas               | Harold Prochaska     | 1980     |
| Kentucky             | Leroy Ford           | 5480     |
| Kentucky             | Carl J. Kaelin       | 1170     |
| Kentucky             | Dennis Thomas        | 1013     |
| Louisiana            | Andrew Adams         | 5097     |
| Louisiana            | Richard Burgess      | 8852     |
| Louisiana            | Russell G. Dugas     | 9822     |
| Louisiana            | Joseph Guidry, Sr.   | 3121     |
| Louisiana            | James W. Ritchie     | 4224     |
| Maine                | Earl E. McGrath      | 2599     |
| Maine                | John T. McIsaac      | 6977     |
| Maryland             | George W. Davis      | 8276     |
| Maryland             | Alvin L. Kelley      | 194      |
| Maryland             | William D. McCallum  | 194      |
| Maryland             | Nicholas Miller      | 2621     |
| Maryland             | Dwight M. Watson     | 10159    |
| Massachusetts        | John J. Burnett      | 697      |



| Department     | Name                      | Post No.    |
|----------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Massachusetts  | Monsignor John Leonard    | 639         |
| Massachusetts  | Paul A. Spera             | 144         |
| Massachusetts  | Bruce W. Wilbur           | 6643        |
| Michigan       | Richard P. Foley          | 3676        |
| Michigan       | John Konicki              | 4499        |
| Michigan       | Cecil McGoon              | 2780        |
| Minnesota      | Clarence Fhyrlund         | 3839        |
| Minnesota      | Robert H. Mares           | 1296        |
| Minnesota      | Dean Means                | 1642        |
| Minnesota      | Paul Reuter, Jr.          | 2948        |
| Mississippi    | James B. Brown            | 4396        |
| Mississippi    | Lowell Gibson             | 3806        |
| Mississippi    | Warren Missler            | 4057        |
| Missouri       | Harlan E. Embrey          | 3404        |
| Missouri       | Jim Mueller               | 5077        |
| Missouri       | Fred Philipps             | 4219        |
| Missouri       | Bill G. Stansberry        | 534         |
| Montana        | Robert T. Merrill         | Past C-in-C |
| Montana        | Hugo Becker               | 5609        |
| Montana        | David Steadman            | 6774        |
| Nebraska       | Barry Caster              | 8334        |
| Nebraska       | John R. Liebsack          | 8334        |
| Nebraska       | Jim Pacas                 | 4836        |
| Nevada         | Gail Armstrong            | 7114        |
| New Hampshire  | Benjamin St. Jacques      | 1698        |
| New Hampshire  | Garry Vachon              | 8214        |
| New Jersey     | Edward J. Damiano         | 6805        |
| New Jersey     | Charles E. Kinney         | 1439        |
| New Jersey     | George T. Van Allen       | 7504        |
| New Jersey     | Arthur M. Williams, Jr.   | 7679        |
| New Mexico     | Tyrone M. Benson          | 7686        |
| New Mexico     | Junior A. Green           | 3274        |
| New Mexico     | Michael A. Muniz          | 2951        |
| New York       | Joseph J. Lombardo        | Past C-in-C |
| New York       | Charles J. Schnobrich     | C of A      |
| New York       | Allen Davenport           | 1019        |
| New York       | William McGarr            | 6196        |
| New York       | John J. Peterson, Jr.     | 10281       |
| New York       | Reverend Albert G. Salmon | 6912        |
| New York       | Jack I. Simons            | 9217        |
| New York       | Domenick Volpe            | 546         |
| North Carolina | James H. Black            | 4059        |
| North Carolina | William W. Boykin         | 7315        |
| CarolinaNorth  | Preston F. Garriss        | 2615        |
| CarolinaNorth  | John Ochoa                | 9983        |
| North Dakota   | Charles D. Godke          | 753         |
| North Dakota   | Dennis E. Johnson         | 9005        |
| Ohio           | Lawrence Brewer           | 7340        |
| Ohio           | Robert C. Cockrell        | 3456        |
| Ohio           | James Comedy              | 3383        |
| Ohio           | Edward H. Marzec          | 3483        |
| Ohio           | Roger D. Taylor           | 2873        |
| Oklahoma       | Clarence Barton           | 9077        |
| Oklahoma       | Rod Himber                | 4876        |
| Oklahoma       | Bill Robertson            | 382         |
| Oregon         | Harold Damm               | 4248        |
| Oregon         | Thomas Duffy              | 661         |
| Oregon         | Carl Reed                 | 1557        |
| Pacific Areas  | Charles A. Clay           | 1509        |
| Pacific Areas  | Mary F. Miklosey          | 8180        |
| Pacific Areas  | Donald P. Webster         | 9957        |
| Panama Canal   | John R. O'Keefe           | 3822        |
| Panama Canal   | James R. Wilkins          | 3822        |
| Pennsylvania   | Thomas J. Dougherty       | 3474        |
| Pennsylvania   | Anthony J. Longo          | 5205        |

| Department          | Name                      | Post No. |
|---------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Pennsylvania.....   | Albert V. Palumbo.....    | 167      |
| Pennsylvania.....   | Michael Wherley.....      | 8951     |
| Rhode Island.....   | James R. Ross.....        | C of A   |
| Rhode Island.....   | John Lawton.....          | 9032     |
| Rhode Island.....   | Webster M. Pidgeon.....   | 45       |
| South Carolina..... | John Buck.....            | 9539     |
| South Carolina..... | Ned L. Johnson.....       | 9539     |
| South Carolina..... | Thomas E. Morris.....     | 3447     |
| South Dakota.....   | O. A. Amundsen.....       | 3061     |
| South Dakota.....   | Elmer W. Foxhoven.....    | 791      |
| Tennessee.....      | John G. Burness.....      | 7175     |
| Tennessee.....      | Thomas Ghiden.....        | 1289     |
| Tennessee.....      | Kenneth R. Houston.....   | 1294     |
| Tennessee.....      | Joe A. Murphy, Jr.....    | 1289     |
| Texas.....          | Charles H. Gulick.....    | 708      |
| Texas.....          | Joseph A. Murphy.....     | 1475     |
| Texas.....          | Frank C. Raines, Jr.....  | 4372     |
| Texas.....          | David L. Stein.....       | 9174     |
| Texas.....          | Gary M. Sunby.....        | 8919     |
| Utah.....           | Donald B. Myers.....      | 8307     |
| Vermont.....        | Leopold Burak.....        | 1767     |
| Vermont.....        | Joseph E. Kearney.....    | 792      |
| Vermont.....        | John Zuba.....            | 2571     |
| Virginia.....       | James J. Dillard.....     | 6975     |
| Virginia.....       | Kenneth E. Edwards.....   | 609      |
| Virginia.....       | Elster K. Hurley.....     | 6975     |
| Virginia.....       | John Palomares.....       | 3160     |
| Virginia.....       | James W. Rickard.....     | 6002     |
| Virginia.....       | Henry F. Sharp, II.....   | 4809     |
| Virginia.....       | Clifford Williford.....   | 3160     |
| Washington.....     | George L. Berthiaume..... | 969      |
| Washington.....     | Andrew J. Martin.....     | 10018    |
| West Virginia.....  | John Carpenter.....       | 1064     |
| West Virginia.....  | James E. Deal.....        | 1064     |
| Wisconsin.....      | James Brandes.....        | 2823     |
| Wisconsin.....      | Stanley Snow.....         | 2028     |
| Wisconsin.....      | Robert Toske.....         | 7232     |
| Wyoming.....        | George Reed.....          | 2673     |

## COMMITTEE ON VETERANS SERVICE

Chairman: J. P. Cockrill, Post 5225, Arkansas

Vice Chairman: Clifford G. Olson, Jr., Past Commander-in-Chief,  
Massachusetts

| Department      | Name                      | Post No. |
|-----------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Alabama.....    | James C. Gates.....       | 96       |
| Alaska.....     | David Kelley.....         | 9785     |
| Alaska.....     | Jimmy McGlaughlin.....    | 9569     |
| Arizona.....    | John M. Jackson.....      | 3632     |
| Arizona.....    | Emmett T. McNulty.....    | 549      |
| Arizona.....    | R. L. Slater.....         | 9829     |
| Arkansas.....   | Bob Edwards.....          | 4548     |
| Arkansas.....   | Bobby D. Hoggard.....     | 4517     |
| California..... | Steve Jacobs.....         | 2085     |
| California..... | Lloyd L. Lindquist.....   | 3173     |
| California..... | David E. Terwilliger..... | 9223     |
| California..... | William Tobin.....        | 1508     |
| California..... | C. Herb Weaver.....       | 2323     |
| California..... | Jerry A. Williams.....    | 7636     |
| Colorado.....   | Darrell D. Elliott.....   | 1771     |

| Department           | Name                    | Post No.    |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Colorado             | Lewis M. Romans         | 322         |
| Connecticut          | Thomas C. Walker        | Past C-in-C |
| Connecticut          | John D. Burns           | 2097        |
| Connecticut          | Maurice E. Dion, Sr.    | 2650        |
| Connecticut          | Glenn Tewksbury         | 10362       |
| Delaware             | Charles McGuire         | 8801        |
| Delaware             | Elmer D. Saxton         | 475         |
| District of Columbia | A. Leo Anderson         | 833         |
| Europe               | William R. Pierce       | 9845        |
| Florida              | Al DeStefano            | 10094       |
| Florida              | O'Neil B. Matthews      | 10210       |
| Florida              | Charles T. Snyder       | 4225        |
| Florida              | John C. Weiss           | 2185        |
| Georgia              | Richard Branson         | 5080        |
| Georgia              | Joe T. Wood             | 8452        |
| Hawaii               | Carl McKenzie           | 94          |
| Idaho                | James DuBois            | 10444       |
| Illinois             | William J. Jackson      | 3912        |
| Illinois             | Walter C. Luksta        | 9115        |
| Illinois             | Robert J. McMahon       | 2298        |
| Illinois             | Dwight Tanner, Jr.      | 9759        |
| Indiana              | Paul Curtis             | 1257        |
| Indiana              | Glendon R. Hinshaw      | 1111        |
| Indiana              | Thomas F. Houghland     | 3418        |
| Indiana              | Hubert Phillips         | 972         |
| Iowa                 | Paul B. Brown           | 733         |
| Iowa                 | Paul Horrell            | 1856        |
| Iowa                 | Robert Hummel           | 2440        |
| Iowa                 | Wilbur W. Sealman       | 2253        |
| Kansas               | Charles H. Cloud, Jr.   | 3544        |
| Kansas               | Melvin R. Garrett       | 6240        |
| Kansas               | Karl D. Musick          | 583         |
| Kansas               | N. Dan Smith            | 56          |
| Kentucky             | Joseph W. Chaddic       | 2921        |
| Kentucky             | Ray Hensley             | 2921        |
| Kentucky             | Hershel Mix             | 5409        |
| Kentucky             | James W. Riney          | 696         |
| Louisiana            | Patrick E. Carr         | Past C-in-C |
| Louisiana            | Rufus Arabie            | 9822        |
| Louisiana            | Harold A. Dick, Jr.     | 3178        |
| Louisiana            | Robert V. Martin        | 8973        |
| Maine                | Arthur A. Baker         | 832         |
| Maine                | James A. Fredericks     | 4917        |
| Maryland             | George E. Clark         | 10081       |
| Maryland             | W. Leroy Maddox         | 9083        |
| Maryland             | Alfred Simmons          | 8509        |
| Maryland             | John G. Simmons         | 8276        |
| Massachusetts        | Timothy J. Murphy       | Past C-in-C |
| Massachusetts        | George J. Barrett       | 2017        |
| Massachusetts        | Stanley T. King         | 2346        |
| Massachusetts        | John T. Tynan           | 561         |
| Michigan             | Assad Allie             | 147         |
| Michigan             | William P. Bennett      | 7573        |
| Michigan             | Dino Costantini         | 1278        |
| Michigan             | Lawrence Jack           | 9021        |
| Michigan             | Raymond O'Neill         | 147         |
| Michigan             | Paul M. Savage          | 2254        |
| Minnesota            | Kelly Ferber            | 612         |
| Minnesota            | Robert Larson           | 6206        |
| Mississippi          | Lester J. Dreesen       | 5573        |
| Mississippi          | Steve W. Neal           | 79          |
| Missouri             | William Coleman         | 35          |
| Missouri             | Billie A. Floyd         | 5606        |
| Missouri             | Dennis F. Flynn         | 2866        |
| Missouri             | Herbert M. Reichel, Jr. | 1829        |

| Department     | Name                    | Post No. |
|----------------|-------------------------|----------|
| Montana        | Charles Barbero         | 1595     |
| Montana        | Charles Follick         | 1087     |
| Nebraska       | Rolland E. Hild         | 8334     |
| Nebraska       | Henry Kirchoff          | 8334     |
| Nebraska       | Arlan Stratman          | 5283     |
| Nevada         | Louis D'Ercole          | 9211     |
| Nevada         | Casper Keller           | 3677     |
| New Hampshire  | Richard Jowders         | 4368     |
| New Hampshire  | Roland Morrisette       | 483      |
| New Jersey     | Joseph Bennett          | 4589     |
| New Jersey     | Robert T. Dunn          | 139      |
| New Jersey     | Edward Fischer          | 2619     |
| New Jersey     | Pierre Lamereaux        | 7164     |
| New Jersey     | George J. Lisicki       | 2314     |
| New Mexico     | Charles A. Nassie       | 2182     |
| New Mexico     | Rudolph F. Otero        | 5610     |
| New Mexico     | Elmo J. Whitmore        | 401      |
| New York       | Paul Dyer               | 7290     |
| New York       | Melvin Garrett          | 6369     |
| New York       | Heyman Rothbart         | 310      |
| North Carolina | Dorris Derrick          | 6018     |
| North Carolina | Fred T. Howell          | 8989     |
| North Carolina | Conway T. Newsome       | 2615     |
| North Carolina | Hubert Perkins          | 6724     |
| North Dakota   | Charles Barstad         | 762      |
| North Dakota   | Mel Felchle             | 1326     |
| North Dakota   | Arthur V. Streed        | 762      |
| Ohio           | John E. Moon            | C of A   |
| Ohio           | Jake Brewer             | 8794     |
| Ohio           | George Miklos           | 1090     |
| Ohio           | William Young           | 2926     |
| Oklahoma       | Harvey Bowen            | 1317     |
| Oklahoma       | Ronald T. Gignac        | 4876     |
| Oklahoma       | Robert E. Martin        | 5263     |
| Oklahoma       | George M. Morris        | 1857     |
| Oklahoma       | Jack Nevel              | 577      |
| Oregon         | Gail Lunders            | 9611     |
| Oregon         | Clem Meeks              | 9744     |
| Pacific Areas  | Gerald L. Kraus         | 10216    |
| Pacific Areas  | John R. Snook           | 9450     |
| Panama Canal   | Richard A. Gilman       | 3822     |
| Pennsylvania   | Tavio Angelo            | C of A   |
| Pennsylvania   | Stanley Brojek          | 3390     |
| Pennsylvania   | Walter Debes            | 20       |
| Pennsylvania   | Mario Maffeo            | 710      |
| Pennsylvania   | F. Marshall Rock        | 695      |
| Pennsylvania   | Andrew Sarnak           | 283      |
| Rhode Island   | Ernest P. DeGrave       | 2274     |
| Rhode Island   | Manuel V. Oliver        | 329      |
| South Carolina | William M. Chapman      | 5996     |
| South Carolina | Harry Faris             | 6732     |
| South Dakota   | Maurice D. Ratigan      | 2755     |
| South Dakota   | Donald L. Ruby          | 628      |
| South Dakota   | George Symes            | 628      |
| South Dakota   | William H. Tarrell      | 1640     |
| Tennessee      | William H. Berkley, Jr. | 1291     |
| Tennessee      | Ray Covington           | 1970     |
| Tennessee      | Garland K. Riley        | 4916     |
| Tennessee      | James P. Rose           | 5266     |
| Texas          | Thurmond Hummer         | 8577     |
| Texas          | Willard W. Lay          | 9181     |
| Texas          | Noe Olivarez            | 8526     |
| Texas          | John F. Simmons         | 6796     |
| Utah           | Benito G. Russo         | 3586     |
| Vermont        | Wayne R. Camley         | 9653     |



| Department          | Name                       | Post No.    |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Vermont .....       | Maurice Cuthbertson .....  | 793         |
| Vermont .....       | Lee W. Lavoie .....        | 10038       |
| Virginia .....      | James L. Booth .....       | 2216        |
| Virginia .....      | Clinton A. Rakes .....     | 1115        |
| Virginia .....      | Charles B. Wilkerson ..... | 9808        |
| Washington .....    | Eric Sandstrom .....       | Past C-in-C |
| Washington .....    | George Riedel .....        | 969         |
| Washington .....    | Eugene Van Bebber .....    | 2289        |
| West Virginia ..... | John F. Bennett .....      | C of A      |
| West Virginia ..... | Gail L. Harper .....       | 3466        |
| West Virginia ..... | Ralph W. Honaker .....     | 1064        |
| West Virginia ..... | Keith D. Ray .....         | 1064        |
| West Virginia ..... | Eugene W. Walker .....     | 4484        |
| Wisconsin .....     | Donald Cunningham .....    | 7591        |
| Wisconsin .....     | Michael Furgal .....       | 2312        |
| Wisconsin .....     | Allen Hardtke .....        | 10490       |
| Wisconsin .....     | Adrian Kloet .....         | 1865        |
| Wisconsin .....     | M. Dean Kruger .....       | 305         |
| Wyoming .....       | Duane Clifton .....        | 2673        |

### COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

Chairman: Richard Trombla, Post 1174, Kansas

| Department       | Name                     | Post No. |
|------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| California ..... | Edwin L. Myers .....     | 9814     |
| Delaware .....   | Elwood B. Rickards ..... | 7234     |
| Illinois .....   | James L. Mascola .....   | 3580     |
| Minnesota .....  | James H. Kennedy .....   | 3877     |
| Missouri .....   | James H. Willis .....    | 534      |
| New Jersey ..... | Charles Sauer .....      | 4290     |
| Virginia .....   | Jake Tate, Jr. ....      | 647      |

### COMMITTEE ON CONVENTION RULES

Chairman: Clyde A. Lewis, Past Commander-in-Chief, New York

Vice Chairman: Joseph A. Scerra, Past Commander-in-Chief,  
Massachusetts

### AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL BY-LAWS AND MANUAL OF PROCEDURE CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL BY-LAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AND RITUAL

*B-1 (Recommended by National By-Laws Committee, Proposed by Commander-in-Chief)—Section 720—Definitions.*

Amend Section 720, National By-Laws, by adding the following paragraphs thereto:

" 'He, His, Him' as used in these By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure, shall include both male and female persons.

'Resign, Resignation' means deliberately giving up an office or membership, i.e. quitting. Resignation from an office in this Organization or any unit shall become effective immediately upon the communication of the intent to resign in writing or orally to the constituent body. An officer of this Organization or any unit may withdraw his resignation and be restored to office if such withdrawal is made in writing or communicated orally to the constituent body before the office is declared vacant or filled." (Adopted.)

*B-2 (Recommended by National By-Laws Committee, Proposed by Commander-in-Chief)—Section 801—Seals.*

Amend Section 801, National By-Laws, by redesignating the section as set forth below:

**"SECTION 801—ADOPTION OF SEALS, EMBLEMS, BADGES AND INSIGNIA."**

Amend Section 801 further by deleting all therein and substituting the following in lieu thereof:

"The Great Seal of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall be a cross of eight points, or Cross of Malta, between the segments of which are rays of the sun cantoned, forming a star, superimposed upon the center of which shall be an American Eagle with outstretched wings and claws. The right claw of the eagle shall have an olive branch and the left claw a sheath of arrows. From the bill of the eagle a streamer shall be suspended bearing the inscription *Pro Deo—Pro Patria* and over its head shall be grouped thirteen (13) stars. On the breast of the eagle shall be an American shield. The eagle shall be encircled by the legend *Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States*.

"The seal of Departments shall be identical with the Great Seal, except that the encircling legend for Department Seals shall read: 'Department of (insert name of Department), Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States' and within the inner circle shall be added the date of the institution of the Department.

"The seal of Districts shall be identical with the Great Seal, except that the encircling legend shall read: 'District (insert number of District), Department of (insert name of Department), Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States' and within the inner circle shall be added the date of the institution of the District.

"The seal of a County Council shall be identical with the Great Seal, except that the encircling legend shall read: '(insert name of County) County Council, Department of (insert name of Department), Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States' and within the inner circle shall be added the date of the institution of the Council.

"The seal of Posts shall be identical with the Great Seal, except that the encircling legend shall read: '(insert name of Post) Post No. (insert Post number) (and then the name of the City and State in which it is located), Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States' and within the inner circle shall be added the date of the institution of the Post.

"The National Convention or the National Council of Administration may adopt such other seals, emblems, badges and insignia as may from time to time be appropriate. Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall have sole and exclusive rights to its seals, emblems, badges and insignia and its seals, emblems, badges and insignia shall not be used without consent of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States." (Adopted.)

*B-3 (Recommended by National By-Laws Committee, Proposed by Commander-in-Chief)—Section 802—Colors of Units.*

Amend Section 802, National By-Laws, by deleting all therein and substituting the following in lieu thereof:

"The colors of the various units of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall show the authorized emblem of the organization on fields which shall be colored as follows:

|                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| National Convention..... | Purple            |
| Departments.....         | Maroon            |
| Districts.....           | Maroon over White |
| County Councils.....     | White             |
| Posts.....               | Navy Blue         |

"Department Colors shall bear the name of the Department; District Colors shall bear the name of the Department and the numerical designation of the District; County Council Colors shall bear the name of the County Council; and Post Colors shall bear the name and number of the Post." (Adopted.)

*B-4 (Recommended by National By-Laws Committee, Proposed by Commander-in-Chief)—Section 803—Uniforms, Badges and Insignia.*

Amend Section 803, National By-Laws, by redesignating the section as set forth below:

**"SECTION 803—MANUFACTURE AND USE OF SEALS, EMBLEMS, BADGES, INSIGNIA AND UNIFORMS."**

Amend Section 803 further by deleting all therein and substituting the following in lieu thereof:

"The design, manufacture and use of seals, emblems, badges and insignia and goods and services using such seals, badges, emblems or insignia shall be as provided in the Manual of Procedure or as may be otherwise adopted and promulgated from time to time by the National Convention or the National Council of Administration.

"The design, manufacture and use of uniforms shall be as provided in the Manual of Procedure.

"No person shall be entitled to use or wear any seal, emblem, badge, insignia or uniform of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States unless he is a member in good standing. Ownership of all seals, badges, emblems and insignia shall remain vested in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the right to use or wear such seals, badges, emblems, insignia or uniforms shall be a license only which shall be automatically revoked when such person ceases to be a member.

"No member or other person shall use or wear any seal, emblem, badge, insignia or uniform of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States while engaged in any commercial or political activity in such a manner as likely to falsely convey that such activity is approved or endorsed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. The Commander-in-Chief may, in his sole discretion, order that a member or other person cease and desist from any activity determined by him likely to falsely convey approval or endorsement by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States." (Adopted.)

*B-5 (Recommended by National By-Laws Committee, Proposed by Commander-in-Chief) Designate a new section as set forth below:*

**"SECTION 804—OFFICIAL NAME.**

"The official name of this organization is 'Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.' The name may be abbreviated to read 'Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.,' 'Veterans of Foreign Wars, U.S.,' 'Veterans of Foreign Wars' and 'VFW' on seals, emblems, badges and insignia and in other cases when it would be desirable to shorten the title." (Adopted.)

*B-6 (Recommended by National By-Laws Committee, Proposed by Commander-in-Chief)—Section 903—Procedure for Disciplinary Actions.*

Amend Section 903, National By-Laws, by inserting the word "Post" in the last paragraph of subparagraph (e) thereof between the words "A" and "Commander." (Adopted.)

*B-7 (Recommended by National By-Laws Committee, Proposed by Commander-in-Chief)—Section 1001—Rules of Order.*

Amend Section 1001, National By-Laws, by deleting all therein and substituting the following in lieu thereof:

"Rules governing the conduct of meetings of all units of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, including the National Convention, shall be as prescribed in the Manual of Procedure and the Ritual." (Adopted.)

*B-8 (Recommended by National By-Laws Committee, Proposed by Commander-in-Chief) Section 1101—Formation and Control of.*

Amend Section 1101, National By-Laws, by redesignating the Section as set forth below:

**"FORMATION, CONTROL AND DISBANDMENT OF AUXILIARIES."**

Amend Section 1101 further by deleting all therein and substituting the following in lieu thereof:

"The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is a national association of eligible members heretofore chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Such association shall be subject to the control of the National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the Commander-in-Chief and the National Council of Administration.

"The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall be governed by such By-Laws, Rules and Regulations and Ritual as may be adopted by it and by the lawful orders issued by the National Officers of the Ladies Auxiliary, provided such By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, Ritual and orders do not conflict with the Congressional Charter, By-Laws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States or the lawful orders or directives of the National Convention, the Commander-in-Chief or the National Council of Administration of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

"The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may issue charters to Department, County Council and Post Auxiliaries and authorize

the Department Auxiliary to issue District charters, provided that the establishment of such Auxiliary shall have been approved by the respective Department, District, County Council or Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and subject to its control. Formation, control and disbandment of auxiliaries as well as suspension or cancellation of charters shall be in the manner prescribed in the Manual of Procedure.

"Auxiliary officers shall make such reports as may be required in the Manual of Procedure." (Adopted.)

*B-9 (Recommended by National By-Laws Committee, Proposed by Commander-in-Chief)—Section 1102—Eligibility.*

Amend Section 1102, National By-Laws, by deleting all therein and substituting the following in lieu thereof:

"Membership in the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall be limited to wives, widows, mothers, stepmothers (who have performed the duties of parent), grandmothers, daughters, granddaughters, foster and stepdaughters (who attained that status prior to age sixteen (16) and for whom the duties of parent were performed), sisters, half sisters, and foster and stepsisters (who attained that status prior to age sixteen (16) of persons who were or are eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Members must be citizens of the United States and not less than sixteen (16) years old.

"Women eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall be eligible for membership in the Ladies Auxiliary." (Adopted.)

*B-10 (Recommended by National By-Laws Committee, Proposed by Commander-in-Chief)—Section 1103—Ritual, By-Laws and Regulations.*

Amend Section 1103, National By-Laws, by deleting all therein and substituting the following in lieu thereof:

"The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may adopt By-Laws, a Ritual, and such Rules and Regulations as are deemed necessary and may authorize Department, District, County Council and Post Auxiliaries to adopt By-Laws. In the event any part of the By-Laws, Ritual, and Rules and Regulations so adopted are inconsistent with the Congressional Charter, By-Laws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States or the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the respective Department, District, County Council or Post, such part shall be considered null and void." (Adopted.)

*B-11 (Recommended by National By-Laws Committee, Proposed by Commander-in-Chief)—Section 1201—Formation and Control.*

Amend Section 1201, National By-Laws, by deleting all therein and substituting the following in lieu thereof:

"The *Military Order of the Cootie* is recognized as a subordinate and auxiliary order to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Said Order shall be considered the 'honor degree' of the parent organization and shall be governed by and under the control of the National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the National Council of Administration, and the Commander-in-Chief. The Grand Pup Tents and all subordinate units of the *Military Order of the Cootie* shall be formed and under the control of the Commanders, Councils of Administration, and Conventions of the respective Departments of the parent organization in accordance with the Manual of Procedure of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

"An application for membership in the *Military Order of the Cootie* must be accompanied by a certificate verifying that the applicant has been a member in good standing in the Post for the preceding six months, and has completed satisfactory service on a major Post committee or has satisfactorily performed Post duties or participates actively as a leader of Post functions; said certificate, enumerating such qualifying service and showing approval of application by a majority vote of the members at a meeting of the Post, shall bear the endorsement of the Post Commander attested to by the Post Adjutant.

"The *Military Order of the Cootie* is authorized to establish an Auxiliary for adult females, under the control of the Supreme Scratch (National Convention), the Supreme Council of Administration and the Supreme Commander. Subordinate divisions of the M.O.C. may establish and discontinue corresponding units in accordance with the By-Laws of the M.O.C. of the U.S., provided that an Auxiliary to a Pup Tent shall be chartered only after approval of the Post with which it is affiliated. Membership shall be limited to members in good standing in the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States." (Adopted.)



*B-12 (Proposed by Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief and Departments of Illinois and Minnesota)—Section 209.*

Amend Section 209, National By-Laws, by designating said section: "CONSOLIDATION OF POSTS," and setting forth therein the following:

"Two or more Posts in good standing may consolidate by authority of the Commander-in-Chief as prescribed in the Manual of Procedure." (Adopted.)

*B-13 (Proposed by Department of Idaho) Section 718—Political Action Committee.*  
(Disapproved.)

*B-14 (Proposed by Departments of California, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota and Washington)—Section 718—Political Action Committee.*  
(Disapproved.)

*B-15 (Proposed by Department of Oklahoma)—Section 718—Political Action Committee.*

(Disapproved.)

*B-16 (Proposed by Department of Ohio)—Section 718—Political Action Committee.*  
(Disapproved.)

*B-17 (Proposed by National Council Member John E. Moon) Section 718—Political Action Committee.*  
(Disapproved.)

*M-1 (Recommended by National By-Laws Committee, Proposed by Commander-in-Chief)—Section 201—Formation, Chartering and Instituting.*

Amend Section 201, Manual of Procedure, by adding the following to the last paragraph under the heading "Report of Instituting Officer":

"The Instituting Officer shall have the right to review all documentation submitted by members being mustered to verify eligibility." (Adopted.)

*M-2 (Recommended by National By-Laws Committee, Proposed by Commander-in-Chief)—Section 217—Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office.*

Amend Section 217, Manual of Procedure, by deleting all therein and substituting in lieu thereof the following:

"*Nomination.* Elective Post officers shall be nominated at the first meeting in April. Where, by Post By-Law or custom, a Post conducts only one regular meeting per month, elective Post officers shall be nominated at the regular meeting in March.

"Any nominee shall have the opportunity to decline nomination for the office to which he has been nominated before nominations are closed. A member making the nomination of an absentee for any office shall have presented to the Adjutant, in writing, the consent of the member being nominated prior to the opening of nominations. Nominations shall not be closed by the presiding officer until the election is called and the Post is ready to vote, provided, however, that when a poll system and preprinted ballots are used, as hereinafter described, nominations must be closed at the meeting at which nominations are made.

"*Election.* Prior to the opening of nominations, the Post shall decide which form of election shall be used, unless the Post By-Laws specify the manner of election. Balloting for Post officers may be conducted by open vote or written secret ballot (handwritten or printed) at a regular Post meeting, or, if required by Post By-Laws or authorized by Post vote prior to the opening of nominations, by a poll system and preprinted ballot.

"*Election by Open Vote or Written Secret Ballot at Regular Meeting.* Unless the Post has, by By-Law or by majority vote as hereinabove provided, determined to conduct the election by a poll system and preprinted ballot, elective Post officers shall be elected at the April regular meeting with respect to Posts that, by Post By-Law or custom, meet only once a month or at the second April meeting with respect to Posts which, by Post By-Law or by custom, regularly meet more than once a month. Due notice of such election shall be mailed to all members in good standing prior to such election and in reasonable time to reach the members prior to the date for such election.

"A majority vote of all votes cast, except where otherwise designated, shall be necessary to elect. If there be no election on the first ballot, the name of the comrade receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped and so on in successive ballots until an election is made.

"*Poll System and Preprinted Ballot.* A poll system and preprinted ballot may be authorized by a Post By-Law or by majority vote of the Post at the meeting for

nominations, prior to opening of nominations. If authorized, the Post shall determine where, and during what hours, the polls shall be open and shall establish adequate safeguards to assure that those members in good standing who present themselves during the hours specified, and only such members in good standing, shall have an opportunity to vote and have their votes counted as cast. The Post shall also determine the procedure in the event of a tie. Unless the Post otherwise specifies, such balloting shall be conducted on the same date as the regular Post meeting. Due notice of any election to be conducted pursuant to poll system and preprinted ballot, including the time and place for voting, shall be mailed to members in good standing prior to such election within reasonable time to reach members prior to the date for such election. That notice shall contain the names of the candidates.

"The preprinted ballot shall have a space or spaces for write-in candidates. The candidate receiving the greater number of votes cast shall be the winner.

*"Installation of Officers.* Post officers shall be installed in their respective offices at a regular or special meeting held not less than twenty (20) days nor more than sixty (60) days prior to the convening of the Department Convention, but shall not assume their duties until the Department Commander is installed. The installation may be conducted publicly at an open meeting to be held for that purpose when no part of the opening or closing service or signs of recognition shall be used. The installation shall be conducted by a member in good standing, who holds or has held a rank at least as high as that of Post Commander.

"The Post Commander-elect will select the installing officer, sending the installing officer's name to the Department Commander or Adjutant or Department Headquarters in sufficient time to permit the issuing and return of the necessary warrant.

"An officer-elect who may be absent for good and sufficient reason or cause may be installed at any succeeding meeting within sixty (60) days of the date of installation. If not then installed, the office will automatically become vacant.

"The officer designated to install the officers of a Post shall require that all officers, before installation, submit to him their membership cards, showing that they are in good standing and qualified for office during the current membership year. He shall require that the retiring Commander furnish proof that the office of Post Quartermaster is bonded, as prescribed by Section 703. The installing officer shall immediately after the installation submit reports, properly signed, to the Adjutant General and to the Department Adjutant.

"Officers installed in violation of the foregoing will not be recognized by higher authority.

*"Term of Office.* Three trustees shall initially be elected for terms of one (1), two (2) and three (3) years and thereafter one (1) trustee shall be elected each year for a term of three (3) years." (Adopted.)

*M-3 (Recommended by National By-Laws Committee, Proposed by Commander-in-Chief)—Section 709—Control of Units.*

Amend Section 709, Manual of Procedure, by inserting the following:

"Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is a federally chartered membership corporation created by Act of Congress. In accordance with that legislation, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has issued charters to the Ladies Auxiliary, Departments and other units, including Posts. Pursuant to their charters, those units are bound to pursue the purposes set forth in the Congressional Charter and abide by the Charter, By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and the laws and usages of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. However, each organization is a separate unincorporated association or corporation under the laws of the jurisdiction in which each is located.

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States does not own an interest in any clubroom, canteen, facility or any fund-raising activity operated by any such chartered unit, nor are clubrooms, canteens, facilities or other fund-raising activities operated for or on behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States does not derive any profit from such facilities or activities. Clubrooms, canteens, facilities and other fund-raising activities of chartered units are carried on by such units in furtherance of the fraternal, patriotic, historical and educational purposes set forth by Congress.

"Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States does not lend money or extend credit to any chartered unit. It is in no manner responsible for the debts or any other liability incurred by any chartered unit or any clubroom, canteen, facility or other fund-raising activity operated by it. As unincorporated associations or corporations, they are responsible for their own debts and liabilities. To the extent that Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is threatened with or sustains

damage arising from a debt or liability incurred by a chartered unit, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may seek to recover such damages and any costs and expenses incurred from such chartered unit or persons responsible for such debt or liability." (Adopted.)

*M-4 (Recommended by National By-Laws Committee, Proposed by Commander-in-Chief) Section 801—Seals.*

Amend Section 801, Manual of Procedure, by deleting all therein. (Adopted.)

*M-5 (Recommended by National By-Laws Committee, Proposed by Commander-in-Chief) Section 802—Colors of Units.*

Amend Section 802, Manual of Procedure, by deleting all therein. (Adopted.)

*M-6 (Recommended by National By-Laws Committee, Proposed by Commander-in-Chief) Section 803—Uniforms, Badges and Insignia.*

Amend Section 803, Manual of Procedure, by redesignating the section as set forth below:

"SECTION 803—MANUFACTURE AND USE OF SEALS, EMBLEMS, BADGES, INSIGNIA AND UNIFORMS."

Amend Section 803 further by deleting all therein and substituting the following in lieu thereof:

*"Authority to Manufacture.* The seals, emblems, badges and insignia of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, or goods bearing same, shall be manufactured only on order of or with the express written consent of the Commander-in-Chief, Quartermaster General, or with the express written consent of the National Convention or the National Council of Administration. No subordinate unit, member or person shall engage, by contract or otherwise, for the manufacture of such seals, badges, emblems or insignia, or goods bearing same, unless it or he shall have first obtained written consent for doing so from the Commander-in-Chief, Quartermaster General, the National Convention or the National Council of Administration.

*"Official Uniform.* The official uniform for members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall be the navy blue blazer with embroidered emblem pocket patch and gray trousers worn with white shirt and official dress tie as currently or hereinafter available from the Emblem and Supply Department.

*"Optional Official Uniform.* The optional official uniform of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall be the officers' battle jacket, green, shade 51, and trousers of the same color with appropriate shirt and tie.

"On the left sleeve of the jacket, at the shoulder, will be embroidered the VFW insignia. It will be optional to wear a U.S. Flag patch above the insignia. It will be optional to wear a war time unit insignia on the right sleeve at the shoulder.

"The letters 'VFW,' not over three-quarters inch in height, shall be worn on the lapel of the jacket. Numerals not over three-quarters inch in height representing the number of the Post may be worn attached to the lower edge of the collar of the jacket.

"VFW gilt buttons shall be used on the jacket, blouse, or military shirt as the style of the garment may require. The official button of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall be of the same design as the Great Seal and shall not be more than one-half inch across at its greatest width and shall be made of such materials as may be prescribed by the National Council of Administration.

*"Optional Summer Wear.* For summer wear, suntan trousers and suntan shirt of military cut with the VFW letters and Post numerals on the collar of the shirt shall be optional. The VFW letters shall be worn on the left collar of the shirt and Post numerals shall be worn on the right collar of the shirt to conform with the numerals of the VFW caps.

*"Cap.* A cap of the overseas type, lettered with VFW initials, Post numerals, state, rank of office (when applicable), and bearing the Cross of Malta emblem, shall be the regulation cap to be worn with or without the uniform. The color shall be green, shade 51. Lettering on each cap shall be in gold. Only regulation caps shall be worn at meetings.

"Organizational echelons will be designated by the color of the braid (piping) and letters on the caps as follows:

"Post officers, members and Past Post Commanders—gold braid; County Council officers and Past County Council Commanders—bright blue braid; District officers, except District Commanders and Past District Commanders—bright green braid; Department officers, including District Commanders and Past Department officers and Past District Commanders—bright red braid; National officers and Past Commanders-in-Chief—silver braid.

"The National Council of Administration may designate other colors or color combinations of the cap, braid and lettering to be worn on the caps of All American and All State honorees, life members and aides-de-camp. Past Commanders-in-Chief and National Officers with a Council vote, other than National District Council Members, may wear white caps with gold lettering and braid.

"*Badge.* The membership badge of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall be a ribbon one and one-half inches in width, the center stripe of which shall be of gold color and one-eighth of an inch wide, flanked on each side by a stripe of red, white and blue. Pendant by a link and ring from said ribbon shall be a medal not more than one and one-half inches wide upon which shall be imposed the Great Seal.

"*Insignia of Office.* The bar designating official positions in the organization may be worn by all National, Department, District, County Council or Post officers. The official bar shall consist of a miniature strap approximately one-half inch by one and one-half inches, with border of gold or gilt. The field shall be of blue upon which shall appear the title of the office. Said bar may be worn either over the left breast or on official uniform cap. When worn over the breast it shall be at the top of the official badge. When the bar is worn on cap it shall be without badge and it shall be placed horizontally, approximately five-eighths of an inch above the bottom edge and in the space between the front crease of the cap and the name of the state. No shoulder straps or other badge shall be worn to designate official positions.

"*Grave Markers.* The official grave marker of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall be the same design as the Great Seal of the Order and shall be manufactured only under authority granted by the National Council of Administration in such size and of such materials as the National Council of Administration shall from time to time determine." (Adopted.)

*M-7 (Recommended by National By-Laws Committee, Proposed by Commander-in-Chief)—Article X—Rules of Order.*

Amend Article X, Manual of Procedure, by deleting all therein and substituting the following in lieu thereof:

"SECTION 1001—RULES OF ORDER GOVERNING ALL MEETINGS.

"The following Rules of Order shall govern all meetings. Any procedural matter not provided for by these Rules shall be governed by Demeter's Manual of Parliamentary Law and Procedure. These Rules may be altered or amended at any regular session of the body, upon proposition in writing, and by a majority vote of those present and voting. Any alteration or amendment of the rules provided herein shall be in accordance with procedures provided or permitted by Demeter's.

"1. All questions shall be presented and determined upon motion. A motion must first be properly presented and seconded, and then stated by the presiding officer, before it can be open to debate or amendment, or any further action upon it.

"2. A motion may be withdrawn only under the following circumstances: (a) by the mover alone before the question has been completely stated by the presiding officer; (b) by the mover and seconder after the presiding officer has stated the question, provided no member of the body objects; and (c) by majority vote of the body after the presiding officer has stated it, regardless of objection. After a motion has been carried, it can be withdrawn only by unanimous consent. A withdrawn motion is not recorded in the minutes.

"3. Not more than two amendments can be before the body at one time, but any number of amendments can be successively proposed when there has been a disposition of either or both pending amendments. If two amendments are pending, the secondary amendment is first put, then the primary amendment (as amended, if the secondary amendment prevails), then the main motion (as amended, if the said primary amendment prevails). The amendment is always put first. The main motion must be put regardless of the action taken on the amendments. Except as might otherwise be provided in the body's By-Laws, amendments shall always require a majority vote.

"4. When a member rises to speak, he shall rise and address the presiding officer. When two or more members rise to claim the floor at about the same time, the presiding officer assigns the floor to the member who appeared to have risen first and addressed the chair. A member having the floor shall confine his remarks to the question before the body.

"5. No member shall speak more than twice on the same question, nor longer than 10 minutes each time. No member shall speak a second time on the same question if any member who has not spoken on that question arises to claim the floor to speak thereon. Nominating speeches shall not exceed 5 minutes each, nor exceed two seconding speeches of two minutes each.



"6. No member shall in debate impeach the motives of a fellow member or treat him with disrespect. Members shall avoid personalities and unbecoming speech. A member shall not pass between the speaker and the chair. Any conversation calculated to disturb a member while speaking or hinder the transaction of business, shall be deemed a violation of order, and, if continued, the offending member shall be reprimanded by the presiding officer and may be ordered to retire from the room. Failure to comply with an order to retire may subject a member to disciplinary action for conduct prejudicial to the good order and discipline. When a member is called to order for disorderly conduct or abusive language, if such conduct is not immediately stopped and an apology immediately proffered by said member, disciplinary action may be taken against such member.

"7. No member shall be interrupted while speaking except by a call to order which shall be forthwith ruled upon by the presiding officer as being either 'well taken' or 'not well taken.' When a question of order is raised, the interrupted member shall forthwith take his seat until the point of order is decided. No member shall be interrupted while speaking on account of misstatements spoken in debate, but they may be answered, corrected, or explained when the member has finished speaking.

"8. On questions of order there shall be no debate, unless an appeal is taken. When such appeal is taken from a decision of the presiding officer, the appeal shall be put to vote thus: 'Shall the decision of the Chair be sustained?' Those in favor of sustaining the decision of the presiding officer will say aye; those opposed will say no. 'The ayes have it and the decision is sustained,' or 'the noes have it and the decision is not sustained,' as the case may be. Instead of the above form of the question, the following may be used: 'Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the body?' etc. A majority vote is required to overrule the decision of the presiding officer.

"9. Questions not debatable—

"(a) To fix a time to reconvene;

"(b) To adjourn;

"(c) To recess;

"(d) To raise a question of privilege;

"(e) To call for the orders of the day;

"(f) To lay on the table;

"(g) To call the previous questions;

"(h) To limit (or extend) debate;

"(i) To take up any particular item of business;

"(j) To grant leave to speak;

"(k) To grant leave to withdraw a report or resolution;

"(l) To excuse from voting;

"(m) Questions of order when no appeal has been taken, or where the presiding officer has not invited discussion.

"10. Except by unanimous consent, no question on which debate has been closed shall be debatable further. A two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote is required to close debate.

"11. When there is no further debate, or debate has been closed, the presiding officer shall put the question to vote thus: 'Those in favor of the motion will say aye; opposed will say no.' He shall then announce the results thus: 'The ayes have it and the motion is carried,' or 'The noes have it and the motion is lost,' as the case may be.

"12. When the decision of any voice vote is doubted, the presiding officer shall direct the Adjutant to count the vote, which shall be taken by show of hands or by rising vote, and report the result to him. When the decision of any written secret ballot is doubted, the presiding officer shall appoint a committee of two members, one of whom shall be the Adjutant, to recount the ballots and report to him.

"13. The ayes and noes shall be taken by roll call only when ordered by a majority vote of the body. The result shall be recorded in the minutes.

"14. When a question is before the body, the following motions shall be in order:

"Privileged Motions:

"1. To fix a time to reconvene;

"2. To adjourn;

"3. To recess;

"4. To raise a question of privilege;

"5. To call the orders of the day.

"Subsidiary Motions:

"1. To lay on the table;

"2. To call the previous question;

"3. To limit (or extend) debate;

- "4. To postpone definitely;
- "5. To commit, or refer;
- "6. To amend;
- "7. To postpone indefinitely.

"These motions take precedence in the order named, that is: the higher the motion shown above, the higher its order of precedence or rank. A motion of higher order or rank can be entertained while a motion of lower order or rank is pending before the body. If more than one of the above motions are pending at the same time with a main question, the motion of the highest order is put to vote first and then successively the next motion of highest rank up to disposition of the main question by the body. Any number of the motions specified above can be pending with the main question, provided each one has been proposed in accordance with its admitting order, or rank, as shown above.

"All privileged motions and subsidiary motions 1, 2 and 3 shall be decided without debate.

"15. None of the privileged motions, shown above, can be reconsidered except the top motion 'to fix a time to reconvene.' All of the subsidiary motions can be reconsidered except the motion 'to lay on the table.'

"16. When a main motion or resolution has been defeated, the same or substantially the same question shall not be renewed during the same session, but the vote on the question can be reconsidered once at the session.

"17. A main motion can be reconsidered whether it was adopted or defeated. Reconsideration of a motion shall not be in order unless it has been moved by one who voted with the prevailing side. The prevailing side shall be the winning side, whether it be the affirmative or negative. On equal division or tie votes, the negative side is the prevailing side. In the case of a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote, the negative side is the prevailing side if the two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote loses, and the affirmative is the prevailing side if it wins. A motion to reconsider once made and negatived shall not again be in order upon the same question any time. Reconsideration shall always require a majority vote regardless what motion is reconsidered. If reconsideration is defeated, the motion to rescind that question shall be in order any time, provided the question has not been carried out or executed. To rescind requires a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote, unless previous notice is given in which case a majority vote shall be required at the next session.

"18. A motion to adjourn shall be in order, except:

- "(a) While a member is speaking;
- "(b) While a vote is being taken;
- "(c) When a motion to adjourn was the last preceding motion;

"(d) When the privileged motion 'to fix a time to reconvene' is the immediate pending motion.

"A simple motion 'to adjourn' shall be neither debatable nor amendable, but when qualified by the addition of other words, such as 'to adjourn a half-hour from now,' or 'to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair,' it becomes both debatable and amendable and is subject to all privileged and subsidiary motions outlined in paragraphs 14 and 15.

"19. An appeal is debatable and the presiding officer is entitled to debate it without being required to surrender the Chair. However, appeals are not debatable when they relate to (a) indecorum—as when a member is deprived of the floor by the presiding officer for disorderly conduct, abusive language, or because of impugning the motives of members of the assembly, or otherwise indulging in personalities; (b) transgression of the rules of debate—as when a member is denied the floor because he has already spoken twice on the question, or because he has exceeded his 10 minute debate when he had the floor or for failure to confine oneself to the pending question, and (c) when the immediately pending motion is not debatable or debate has been voted closed.

"20. The presiding officer may speak to points of order in preference to other members rising for that purpose. The presiding officer shall announce all votes and decisions and shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal by any two members (mover and seconder of the appeal). The appeal shall be made in writing, if demanded by any two members.

"21. The reading of any report relating to the subject under consideration shall always be in order. All reports and resolutions shall be in writing. When reports and resolutions are from a committee they must be signed by a majority thereof. When a report has been read it is properly before the body without motion to accept.

"Motions and resolutions of committees shall not require a second when moved for adoption by the committee directly, but when moved for adoption by a non-committee member a second is necessary.

"On matters or questions previously referred to a committee by the body, all motions or resolutions of such committee based on such matters may be properly acted upon during 'Reports of Committees' in the order of business. However, if a committee originates motions or resolutions on matters not previously referred to such committee by the body, such motions or resolutions are properly actionable only under 'New Business,' unless the body otherwise agrees to entertain such motions or resolutions at some other time in the order of business. Recommendations in reports must be accompanied by appropriate written motion or resolution in order to be acted upon.

"22. When a report is submitted with a motion or resolution attached, action shall be held on such motion or resolution only, unless such report may be considered improper or incomplete. In that event, such improper or incomplete report can be recommitted, or such report can be amended and an appropriate resolution incorporated in it. No report, or resolution thereon, properly before the body shall be withdrawn without permission of the body, such withdrawal to be decided without debate.

"23. All members entitled to vote may vote on all questions. The presiding officer shall have a vote like any other member.

"A member may change his vote from one side of the question to the other, provided he does so before announcement of the final result.

"SECTION 1002—ORDER OF BUSINESS, NATIONAL AND DEPARTMENT CONVENTIONS.

"1. Opening of the Convention in due form.

"2. Roll call of officers.

"3. Adopt Convention rules as appropriate.

"4. Appointment of committees.

"5. Reports of officers (Reports of National and Department officers may be submitted in printed form to assembled delegates).

"6. Reports of committees.

"7. New business.

"8. Election and installation of officers.

"9. At the second and each succeeding session, a summary of the preceding session may be furnished the delegates assembled.

"10. Closing of the Convention in due form.

"11. This order of business may be suspended at any time by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the delegates assembled at a Convention, to be taken without debate.

"SECTION 1003—ORDER OF BUSINESS—DISTRICTS AND COUNTY COUNCILS.

"1. Opening in due form.

"2. Roll call of officers.

"3. Roll call of Posts.

"4. Read minutes of last meeting.

"5. Report of Quartermaster in detail.

"6. Read communications.

"7. Reports of committees.

"8. Read bills.

"9. Unfinished business.

"10. New business.

"11. Election and installation of officers.

"12. Good of the Order.

"13. Closing in due form.

"SECTION 1004—ORDER OF BUSINESS—POSTS.

"1. Opening in due form.

"2. Commander: Recitation of the purposes of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Section 3 of the Charter.

"3. Roll call of officers.

"4. Read, refer membership applications.

"5. Report of Investigating Committee.

"6. Ballot on candidates.

"7. Muster in recruits.

"8. Read minutes.

"9. Quartermaster's report; disbursements.

"10. Quartermaster's report; receipts.

"11. Read bills.

"12. Report of Service Officer.

"13. Report on Comrades or the families of Comrades in distress.

"14. Report of all committees.

"15. Remember our National Home.

"16. Unfinished business (Read communications associated with unfinished business and vote).

"17. New business (Read communications associated with new business and vote).

"18. Good of the Order (Read communications associated with the good of the order and vote).

"19. Closing in due form.

**"SECTION 1005—TITLE OF ADDRESS.**

"In meetings of units of this organization, members holding office shall be addressed as 'Comrade' followed by the title of the office they hold. All other members shall be addressed as 'Comrade.' (Adopted.)

***M-8 (Recommended by National By-Laws Committee, Proposed by Commander-in-Chief) Section 1101—Formation and Control of.***

Amend Section 1101, Manual of Procedure, by redesignating the section as set forth below:

**"SECTION 1101—FORMATION, CONTROL AND DISBANDMENT OF AUXILIARIES."**

Amend Section 1101 further by deleting all therein and substituting the following in lieu thereof:

"(a) *Formation.* Auxiliaries shall be hereafter formed and approved in accordance with the following provisions. These provisions shall not be retroactive and auxiliaries approved and chartered prior to the adoption of these provisions need not be reapproved.

"(1) *By Departments.* No auxiliary to a Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall be formed unless approved by two-thirds vote of the delegates assembled at an annual Department Convention. Each Department of the Ladies Auxiliary shall be identical in geographical limits with the respective Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and shall be known and identified by the same name as the Department whose name it bears.

"(2) *By Districts.* No auxiliary to a District of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall be formed unless approved at a regular or special meeting by two-thirds of the Posts in such District. Notice of the proposed formation of an auxiliary to the District shall be given all Posts in the District in writing at least two weeks prior to any meeting during which a vote to determine the formation of an auxiliary to the District will be made. Each District of the Ladies Auxiliary shall be identical in geographical limits with the respective District of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and shall be known and identified by the same number as the District whose number it bears.

"(3) *By County Councils.* No auxiliary to a County Council of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall be formed unless approved at a regular or special meeting by two-thirds of the Posts in such County Council. Notice of the proposed formation of an auxiliary to the County Council shall be given all Posts of the County Council in writing at least two weeks prior to any meeting during which a vote to determine the formation of an auxiliary to the County Council will be made. Each County Council of the Ladies Auxiliary shall be identical in geographical limits with the respective County Council of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and shall be known and identified by the same name as the County Council whose name it bears.

"(4) *By Posts.* No auxiliary to a Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall be formed unless approved by a two-thirds vote of the Post membership present at a regular or special meeting, due notice of the proposed formation of an auxiliary having been given the entire membership in writing at least one week prior to a regular meeting, or special meeting called for the aforementioned purpose. Each Auxiliary shall be assigned the number of the Post with which it is affiliated.

**"(b) Governance and Control.**

"(1) *Governance of Department Auxiliaries.* Department Auxiliaries shall be subject to the control of the Convention and Council of Administration of the respective Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

"Department Auxiliaries shall be governed by the By-Laws, Ritual, and Rules and Regulations of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the Department Auxiliary and lawful orders issued by their



respective officers, provided they do not conflict with the Congressional Charter, By-Laws or Manual of Procedure of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and By-Laws of the Department whose name it bears or lawful orders issued by the Commander-in-Chief, the National Council of Administration or the Department Council of Administration.

"(2) *Governance of District, County Council and Post Auxiliaries.* The Ladies Auxiliary to a District, County Council or Post shall be subject to the control of the respective District, County Council or Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States whose name or number it bears.

Such auxiliary shall be governed by the By-Laws, Ritual and Rules and Regulations of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the Department Auxiliary and lawful orders issued by their respective officers provided they do not conflict with the Congressional Charter, By-Laws or Manual of Procedure of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Department By-Laws or the By-Laws of the District, County Council or Post whose name it bears, or lawful orders issued by the Commander-in-Chief, the National Council of Administration, or the Department Council of Administration.

"(c) *Suspension and Discontinuance.*

"(1) *National.* The Commander-in-Chief may suspend the Charter of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States if he believes its conduct, or that of its officers or Council of Administration, to be detrimental to the interests of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

"The Charter of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may not be suspended by the Commander-in-Chief for a period longer than thirty (30) days without the consent of the National Council of Administration of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Such consent shall be given only if a majority of the members of the Council determine that it is in the best interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to suspend the Charter for a longer period of time.

"While the Charter of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is suspended, its officers shall have no authority and shall not issue any orders other than those necessary to keep a National Headquarters office in operation.

"(2) *Departments.* The Commander-in-Chief may direct the suspension of the charter of any Department Auxiliary upon the recommendation of the National President of the Ladies Auxiliary or the Commander of such Department when it is shown to the satisfaction of the Commander-in-Chief that the conduct of such Department Auxiliary, or its officers or Council of Administration, is detrimental to the interests of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. A Department Auxiliary charter may not be suspended by the Commander-in-Chief for a period longer than thirty (30) days without the consent of the National Council of Administration of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Such consent shall be given only if a majority of the members of the Council determine it is in the best interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to suspend the charter for a longer period of time.

"(3) *Districts, County Councils and Posts.* The Commander-in-Chief may direct the suspension of the charter of any District, County Council or Post auxiliary for a definite or indefinite period of time and may order the National President to order the cancellation of the charter of any District, County Council or Post auxiliary if he believes the conduct of such auxiliary or its officers is detrimental to the best interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

"(d) *Requesting Cancellation of the Charter of an Auxiliary.*

"(1) *By Departments.* A Department may, by a vote of eighty percent of the delegates assembled at an annual Department Convention, following a printed or written notice mailed or delivered to each Post in the Department at least ten (10) days before such Convention, vote to request cancellation of the charter of its Auxiliary. The notice must state the contemplated action and the reason therefor. If the Department votes to request cancellation of the charter of its Auxiliary, the Department Commander shall certify that action in writing and forward such certification to the Commander-in-Chief. If the Commander-in-Chief believes it is in the best interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to do so, he shall direct the National President to cancel the charter of the Department Auxiliary.

"(2) *By Districts or County Councils.* A District or County Council may, by a vote of eighty percent of the Posts at a regular or special meeting following a

printed or written notice to each Post in the District or County Council at least ten (10) days before such meeting, vote to request cancellation of the charter of its Auxiliary. The notice must state the contemplated action and the reason therefor. If the District or County Council votes to request cancellation of the charter of its Auxiliary, it shall certify the action in writing and forward same to the Department Commander who shall forward it to the Commander-in-Chief with his recommendation. If the Commander-in-Chief believes it is in the best interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to do so, he shall direct the National President to cancel the charter of the District or County Council Auxiliary.

"(3) *Disbanding of Auxiliary by Post.* A Post may, by vote of eighty percent of its members present at a meeting following a printed or written notice mailed or delivered to each member of the Post in good standing at least ten (10) days before said meeting, vote to request cancellation of the charter of its Auxiliary. The notice must state the contemplated action and the reason therefor. If the Post votes to request cancellation of the charter of its Auxiliary, it shall certify the action in writing and forward same to the Department Commander who shall forward it to the Commander-in-Chief with his recommendations. If he believes that it is in the best interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to do so, the Commander-in-Chief shall direct the National President to cancel the charter of the Post Auxiliary.

"(e) *Disposition of Property.* In the event of the surrender, cancellation or forfeiture of the Charter of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, its records, monies and all other property shall immediately become the property of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

"In the event of the surrender, cancellation or forfeiture of the charter of the Auxiliary to a Post, County Council, District or Department, all monies, official records and all other property shall immediately be surrendered to such officer or officers as may be provided by the By-Laws and Rules and Regulations of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States for disposition in accordance with those By-Laws and Rules and Regulations.

"(f) *Reports.*

"(1) *National.* The National President of the Ladies Auxiliary shall, within thirty (30) days after induction into office, submit to the Commander-in-Chief an itemized report of the financial and membership status of the Ladies Auxiliary for his information and for submission by him to the National Council of Administration.

"The National Treasurer of the Ladies Auxiliary shall prepare a quarterly report for the National President and the National Council of Administration of the Ladies Auxiliary, and submit copies thereof to the Department Presidents of the Ladies Auxiliary and to the Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. She also shall prepare for the National President, before each National Convention, a list showing the Auxiliaries in good standing and the number of delegates to which each is entitled.

"*Budget.* No less than ten (10) days prior to the meeting of the National Council of Administration of the Ladies Auxiliary at which the annual budget is adopted, the National Treasurer shall submit a proposed budget, including a list of all employees of the Ladies Auxiliary together with their current salaries and any proposed salary changes, to the National President, each member of the National Council of Administration of the Ladies Auxiliary and the Commander-in-Chief. Immediately following the adoption of the annual budget by the National Council of Administration of the Ladies Auxiliary, she shall submit a copy of the approved budget, including detailed salary schedules, to the Commander-in-Chief.

"(2) *Department.* The Department President of the respective Department Ladies Auxiliary shall, within thirty (30) days after induction into office, submit to the Department Commander an itemized report of the financial and membership status of the Department Ladies Auxiliary for his information and for submission by him to the Department Council of Administration.

"(3) *Districts, County Councils, Posts.* The President of the Ladies Auxiliary to a District, County Council or Post shall, within thirty (30) days after induction into office, submit to the Commander of the respective District, County Council or Post an itemized report of the financial and membership status of the auxiliary over which she is presiding officer. Such reports will be acknowledged by each respective Commander during the next regular meeting and may be read to the members assembled.

"(g) *Liaison*. There is established a committee composed of the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief and the Adjutant General who shall meet with a corresponding committee composed of the Senior Vice President, Junior Vice President and the National Secretary of the Ladies Auxiliary. This combined committee shall meet each year, at the call of the Commander-in-Chief, to consider all matters affecting the welfare of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. The purpose of the committee shall be to coordinate the activities of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the activities of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and to insure full compliance with the Congressional Charter, By-Laws and Manual of Procedure of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and the mandates of the National Convention and National Council of Administration of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States." (Adopted.)

*M-9 (Recommended by National By-Laws Committee, Proposed by Commander-in-Chief)—Section 1102—Eligibility.*

Amend Section 1102, Manual of Procedure, by deleting all therein. (Adopted.)

*M-10 (Recommended by National By-Laws Committee, Proposed by Commander-in-Chief)—Section 1103—Ritual, By-Laws and Regulations.*

Amend Section 1103, Manual of Procedure, by deleting all therein. (Adopted.)

*M-11 (Recommended by National By-Laws Committee, Proposed by Commander-in-Chief)—Section 1201—Formation and Control.*

Amend Section 1201, Manual of Procedure, by adding the following to the first sentence thereof:

" . . . ; and provided further, that hereafter, no Pup Tent shall be chartered unless the Post with which such Pup Tent is to be affiliated has consented to the chartering thereof."

Amend Section 1201 further by adding the following to the first paragraph thereof:

"Consent shall require a two-thirds vote of the members present at a regular or special meeting, provided that Post members are given written notice that a vote will take place, such notice to be given the entire membership in writing at least one week prior to the regular or special meeting called for the aforementioned purpose. Each Pup Tent shall be assigned a number by the parent (Supreme) organization of the Military Order of the Cootie and be under the control of the Post to which it is attached."

Amend Section 1201 further by deleting in its entirety the first paragraph under "Suspension and Discontinuance" and inserting the following:

"*Suspension and Discontinuance*. "The Commander-in-Chief or Council of Administration of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may suspend the National Charter of the Military Order of the Cootie for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days, for conduct of National Officers or of the National Council of Administration of that Order which may be detrimental to the best interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; and he may direct the suspension, for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days, or cancellation of the charter of any subordinate unit of the Military Order of the Cootie, upon recommendation of the Commander of the Department wherein the offending unit is located, when it is shown the conduct of officers or members thereof has become detrimental to the best interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States."

Amend Section 1201 further by inserting the following after the paragraph entitled Suspension of Officers :

"*Disbanding of Pup Tent by Post*. "A Post may, by vote of eighty percent of its members present at a meeting following a printed or written notice mailed or delivered to each member of the Post in good standing at least ten (10) days before said meeting, vote to request cancellation of the charter of its Pup Tent. The notice must state the contemplated action and the reason therefor. If the Post votes to request cancellation of the charter of its Pup Tent, it shall certify the action in writing and forward same to the Department Commander who shall forward it to the Commander-in-Chief with his recommendations. If he believes that it is in the best interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to do so, the Commander-in-Chief shall direct the Supreme Commander of the Military Order of the Cootie to cancel the charter of the Pup Tent."

Amend Section 1201 further by deleting the last paragraph under the heading "Ladies Auxiliary M.O.C." and substituting the following in lieu thereof:

*"Approval by Post. "Hereafter, no Pup Tent Auxiliary shall be chartered unless the Post with which such Pup Tent is affiliated has consented to the chartering thereof. Such consent shall be given in the same manner as consent for the chartering of the Pup Tent as provided in this section." (Adopted.)*

*M-12 (Proposed by Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief and Departments of Illinois and Minnesota) Section 209—*

Amend Section 209, Manual of Procedure, by designating said section: "CONSOLIDATION OF POSTS." and setting forth therein the following:

"A proposed consolidation of two or more Posts in good standing must be approved by each of the Posts by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote, to be recorded by the ayes and nays of the members present at a regular or special meeting called for such purpose, after at least two (2) weeks notice in writing has been given to all the members of such meeting and proposed action. Such facts shall be certified by each Post to the Department Commander.

"If such consolidation be so approved, the number of any one of the consolidating Posts to be assigned and the name of the new Post must be approved by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the members of any and all the Posts consolidating present at a special meeting called for such purpose, after at least two (2) weeks notice in writing has been given to all the members of the Posts concerned of such meeting and purpose. Such facts shall be certified to the Department Commander.

"The Department Commander shall forward such certification to the Commander-in-Chief, who shall issue without charge a Certificate of Charter reciting the facts of such consolidation. The Certificate of Charter shall rank from the date of the senior Post's charter.

"The property of each of the Posts shall be conveyed to and become the property of the consolidated Post. All past officers in each shall be entitled to rank as of date of service in their respective Posts.

"Upon the consolidation of two or more Posts, new officers shall be elected and installed.

*"Past Officers of Consolidated Posts. In the event two or more Posts consolidate, all officers of the consolidated Posts having fulfilled their obligations shall be recognized as past officers; provided, however, the Past Commanders of the Posts consolidating shall not be considered as Past Post Commanders of the consolidated Posts for the purpose of representing either the Posts consolidated, or the new Post formed by such consolidation, at any District Convention or Department Convention." (Adopted.)*

*M-13 (Proposed by Department of Connecticut)—Section 101—Eligibility.*

(Disapproved.)

*R-1 (Proposed by Department of Minnesota)—Amend National Home Prayer in VFW Ritual*

(Disapproved.)

## RESOLUTIONS

### CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE ON AMERICANISM AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

*No. 101 (Submitted by Commander-in-Chief)—Support and Promote Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we highly commend and endorse the annual Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program and that we urge our members through the sponsorship of their respective units to support and promote increased participation opportunities and student involvement in an unparalleled Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program during 1989-90 thereby contributing invaluable to the understanding of freedom and democracy by today's youth in keeping with the patriotic, historical and educational objectives of our organization. (Adopted.)

*No. 102 (Submitted by Commander-in-Chief)—Cooperation With National and State Organizations To Promote Youth, Safety and Patriotic Programs*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we recognize this relationship and extend sincere appreciation to each of these organizations for their cooperation in the development and promotion of youth, safety and patriotic programs; and



Be it further resolved, that during the year ahead, we urge our Posts, County Councils, Districts and Departments to maintain and to strengthen their ties with the AAU, Junior Olympics, American Academy of Achievement, Young American Bowling Alliance, American Youth Soccer Organization, Boy Scouts of America, Boy's Clubs of America, Civil Air Patrol, FFA, 4-H Clubs, Freedoms Foundation, National Rifle Association of America, National and State Associations of Broadcasters, all ROTC programs and Recruiting Commands, Special Olympics, U.S. Naval Sea Cadets, USAF Civil Air Patrol and all other groups, associations and organizations of similar character and interests. (Adopted.)

*No. 103 (Submitted by Commander-in-Chief)—Oppose Any Action To Change Our National Anthem*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we oppose any legislation introduced in either the U.S. House of Representatives or the U.S. Senate which initiates action to change our National Anthem; and

Be it further resolved, that we adopt as one of our continuing objectives that "THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER" remain our National Anthem because it exemplifies our commitment to preserve our nation, "the land of the free and the home of the brave." (Adopted.)

*No. 104 (Submitted by Department of Connecticut)—Mandate English as the Official Language of the United States*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we seek legislation that mandates English as the official language of the United States; and

Be it further resolved, that we seek legislation to: 1) limit bilingual education to short-term transitional programs only; 2) initiate a speedy return to voting ballots in English only; 3) make more opportunities available to immigrants for learning English; 4) maintain the English language as a condition for naturalization; and 5) enact legal protections for the English language, at state and national levels, through the designation of English as our official language. (Adopted.)

*No. 105 (Submitted by Department of Connecticut)—Concerning Memorial Day*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that legislation be sought to return the observance of Memorial Day to May 30th; and

Be it further resolved, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars retain the status of this resolution at a priority level necessary to cause the Congress of the United States to restore the observation of Memorial Day to the 30th day of May as a national holiday. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 106 (Submitted by Department of Colorado)—Opposing a Constitutional Convention*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we are unalterably opposed to the formation of any committee or the calling of a Constitutional Convention to rewrite the most cherished document in the possession of the citizens of the United States, our Constitution. (Adopted.)

*No. 107 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Community Service Credit for Posts Sponsoring Dads of Foreign Service Veterans*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that VFW Posts sponsoring Dads units be accredited for community service, patriotic and safety activities of such units in the same manner and extent that VFW Posts sponsoring Sons of VFW units are accredited for the youth activities inherent in such sponsorship. (Adopted.)

*No. 108 (Submitted by Department of New York)—Protect the Flag of the United States From Desecration*

(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 109 (Submitted by Department of Hawaii)—Petition the Congress and the President of the United States To Prohibit the Desecration of the American Flag*

(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 110 (Submitted by Department of West Virginia)—Prohibit Desecration of "Old Glory"*

(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 111 (Submitted by Department of Nebraska)—Restore Memorial Day to May 30th*  
Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the VFW pursue the enactment of legislation to restore Memorial Day to May 30th. (Adopted.)

*No. 112 (Submitted by Department of Iowa)—Defacing the National Flag*  
(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 113 (Submitted by Department of Michigan)—Enact a Constitutional Amendment To Protect Our Flag From Desecration*  
(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 114 (Submitted by Department of Florida)—Desecration of the Flag*  
(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 115 (Submitted by Department of Rhode Island)—Desecration of the Flag*  
(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 116 (Submitted by Department of New Hampshire)—Desecration of the Flag of the United States*  
(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 117 (Submitted by Department of Washington)—Modify National Voice of Democracy Program To Include Ninth Grade Students*  
(Disapproved.)

*No. 118 (Submitted by Department of California)—Burning of the American Flag*  
(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 119 (Submitted by Department of California)—Protect the U.S. Flag*  
(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 120 (Submitted by Department of Maryland)—U.S. Supreme Court Ruling on American Flag*  
(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 121 (Submitted by Department of Illinois)—Amendment to United States Constitution*  
(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 122 (Submitted by Department of New Jersey)—Amend Sons of the VFW Rules*  
(Disapproved.)

*No. 123 (Submitted by Department of Louisiana)—Limit Jurisdiction of the Court in Flag Cases*  
(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 124 (Submitted by Department of Ohio)—The VFW Standing Firm for the United States Flag*  
(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 125 (Submitted by Department of Ohio)—Boycott any Movie or TV Attempt To Promote Financial Gain From Court's Decision on Flag Burning*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we take the initiative to urge and promote through proper channels and to encourage all other veterans organizations, fraternal and civic organizations to join with us in our efforts to negate any profit motive from this unfortunate and unpopular decision by the Court. (Adopted.)

*No. 126 (Submitted by Department of Oklahoma)—Protect U.S. Flag From Desecration*  
(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 127 (Submitted by Department of Missouri)—VFW National Headquarters Print-Out To Include the POW/MIA Awareness Program*  
(Disapproved.)

*No. 128 (Submitted by Department of Missouri)—Preparing America's Youth for the Future*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Department of Education of the United

States to initiate and implement programs of patriotic education to include studies of the historic documents of our nation and its institutions of government. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 129 (Submitted by Department of Tennessee)—Oppose the Desecration of the American Flag*

(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 130 (Submitted by Department of Tennessee)—Protect the American Flag From Desecration*

(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 131 (Submitted by Department of Tennessee)—Support a Constitutional Amendment Making Desecration of Our Flag a Federal Crime*

(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 132 (Submitted by Department of Florida)—Water Safety*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 133 (Submitted by Department of Texas)—Seek Legislation Through a Constitutional Amendment To Protect the American Flag*

(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 134 (Submitted by Department of Florida)—Dads of Foreign Service*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we recognize the Dads of Foreign Service Veterans of the United States of America as an organization dedicated to assist the Veterans of Foreign Wars in all of its goals. (Adopted.)

*No. 135 (Submitted by Department of Virginia)—Encourage the Lighting of U.S. Flags on Federal Buildings and Federal Installations*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 136 (Submitted by Department of Nebraska)—Establish a Uniform Reporting Period for National Programs*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 137 (Submitted by Department of Mississippi)—VA Hospital Program*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 138 (Submitted by Department of Virginia)—Desecration of the U.S. Flag: A Felony*

(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 139 (Submitted by Department of Wisconsin)—U.S. Supreme Court Decision Regarding the U.S. Flag*

(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 140 (Submitted by Department of Pennsylvania)—Oppose Constitutional Convention That Would Change Our Constitution*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we oppose any attempt to call for a Constitutional Convention as this would give our enemies from within and without the opportunity to destroy our nation; and

Be it further resolved, that we recommend all veterans join together with other concerned citizens to actively petition state legislators to oppose any "call" for a Constitutional Convention and/or recall any such existing "call." Use the power of the vote guaranteed by the Constitution we defend. (Adopted.)

*No. 141 (Submitted by Department of Pennsylvania)—Support for Constitutional Amendment To Overturn Supreme Court Ruling on Flag Burning as Free Expression*

(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 142 (Submitted by Department of Kentucky)—Never Desecrate the American Flag*

(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 143 (Submitted by Department of Maine)—Ensure Proper Honor and Respect for Our American Flag*

(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 144 (Submitted by Department of New York)—Eliminate the Use of Reel to Reel Tapes in the National Voice of Democracy Contest*  
(Disapproved.)

*No. 145 (Submitted by Department of New York)—Support Legislation To Protect the American Flag*  
(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 146 (Submitted by Commander-in-Chief)—Flag Desecration*  
(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 147 (Submitted by Department of Colorado)—Halt Desecration of U.S. Flag*  
(Resolution No. 148 adopted in lieu of.)

*No. 148 (Submitted by Committee on Americanism and Community Activities)—Constitutional Amendment To Protect the Flag of the United States of America*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we ask each United States Senator, each member of the United States House of Representatives and the President of the United States to do everything in their power to initiate and adopt legislation calling for a Constitutional amendment to protect the Flag of the United States of America from desecration; and

Be it further resolved, that we add our collective voices to the millions of other patriotic citizens and organizations throughout the length and breadth of our land to call upon our representatives in the Congress of the United States and state legislatures to enact legislation providing for a Constitutional amendment to protect the Flag of the United States of America from desecration; and

Be it further resolved, that we urge all veterans and their families and dependents to call upon their representatives at every level of government to support initiatives to amend the Constitution of the United States to protect the Flag of the United States of America from desecration; and

Be it further resolved, that we call upon our Posts, County Councils, Districts and Departments to communicate the support of their membership to their respective representatives in every level of government to insure the adoption of a Constitutional amendment to protect the Flag of the United States of America from desecration; and

Be it further resolved, that we call upon the Commander-in-Chief and the National Council of Administration of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States through its National Headquarters and Washington Office to make the adoption of a Constitutional amendment to protect the Flag of the United States of America from desecration our number one priority goal; and

Be it further resolved, that we call upon the membership of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to join in an all out effort through petition drives, lawful demonstrations and letter writing campaigns to achieve this priority legislative goal in the Congress of the United States and the legislative bodies of each of our fifty states to adopt a Constitutional amendment to protect the Flag of the United States of America from desecration; and

Be it further resolved, that the VFW Political Action Committee make it known that support for a Constitutional amendment to protect the Flag of the United States of America shall be among the requisites for expending monies for the advancement of the purposes of the Veterans of Foreign Wars by political action in elections to federal office in the United States. (Adopted.)

#### CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

*No. 201 (Submitted by Department of Colorado)—Prohibit Taxation of Proceeds of VFW Fund Raising Activities*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the VFW sponsors and supports legislation to amend applicable sections of the IRS Code to ensure that proceeds derived from games of chance, such as drawings, raffles and tickets, commonly known as pull-tabs, are not subject to any excise or income tax under the IRS interpretation of the law, to the extent these proceeds are used to support the VFW's charitable, civic and patriotic enterprises. (Adopted.)

*No. 202 (Submitted by Department of Montana)—VFW Accidental Death Insurance*  
(Tabled.)



No. 203 (Submitted by Department of Arizona)—Prohibit the Procurement of VFW Items From Other Than American Owned Firms  
(Disapproved.)

No. 204 (Submitted by Department of Arizona)—Provide Affordable VFW Sponsored Liability Insurance to Posts  
(Disapproved.)

No. 205 (Submitted by Department of Montana)—National Service Officer Program  
(Disapproved.)

No. 206 (Submitted by Department of Montana)—DMZ Korean Service Eligibility  
(Disapproved.)

No. 207 (Submitted by Department of Pennsylvania)—Rename VFW National Headquarters Building in Honor of Past Commander-in-Chief Joseph M. Stack  
(Disapproved.)

No. 208 (Submitted by Department of Massachusetts)—DOD Issue Campaign Medal for Korean Service  
(Disapproved.)

No. 209 (Submitted by Department of Florida)—Issue Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for Korean Service

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we request authorization by the Congress or Secretary of Defense that all American troops with supporting documents showing 30 days consecutive assignment to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) receive either the Korean Service Medal or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, thereby making them eligible for the Veterans of Foreign Wars dated from the start of the Korean War on June 27, 1950, and that the cut off dates established by the Congress or Secretary of Defense be revised from July 27, 1954 to September 30, 1966, and from July 1, 1974 to indeterminate until a peace treaty is signed. (Adopted.)

No. 210 (Submitted by Department of Florida)—Recognize the VFW National Firefighter and the VFW National Emergency Medical Technician of the Year  
(Disapproved.)

No. 211 (Submitted by Department of Wisconsin)—Change December 31 Insurance Deadline Date  
(Disapproved.)

No. 212 (Submitted by Department of Wisconsin)—Recognize Our Volunteers With Distinctive Pins  
(Disapproved.)

No. 213 (Submitted by Department of Michigan)—Cancer Insurance (Group Policy)  
(Disapproved.)

No. 214 (Submitted by Department of Washington)—National Directory of VFW Posts, Clubs and Recreational Facilities  
(Disapproved.)

No. 215 (Submitted by Department of Illinois)—Promotion of Life Membership

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that National Headquarters develop a Life Membership gift certificate that can be used throughout the Departments and can be paid by cash, check or credit card and a copy given to the recipient of the gift. (Adopted.)

No. 216 (Submitted by Department of Louisiana)—Establish a VFW National Award for the Nation's Outstanding Firefighter

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars establish an annual gold medal national award to be presented to the nation's outstanding firefighter according to the same criteria presently used to select the nation's outstanding law enforcement officer. (Adopted.)

No. 217 (Submitted by Department of Minnesota)—Consideration of Minnesota News Council Concept  
(Disapproved.)

No. 218 (Submitted by Department of Minnesota)—*South Korea Membership Eligibility*

(Disapproved.)

No. 219 (Submitted by Department of Minnesota)—*New and Reinstate Membership Program*

(Disapproved.)

No. 220 (Submitted by Department of Minnesota)—*Voluntary Memorial Donations to VFW National Home*

(Disapproved.)

No. 221 (Submitted by Department of Ohio)—*Initiate a VFW Cancer Insurance and Grant Program*

(Disapproved.)

No. 222 (Submitted by Department of Oklahoma)—*Provide National Liability Insurance Plan for VFW Posts*

(Disapproved.)

No. 223 (Submitted by Department of Tennessee)—*Rename the VFW Congressional Award the "Cooper T. Holt VFW Congressional Award"*

(Disapproved.)

No. 224 (Submitted by Department of Wisconsin)—*Political Endorsements*

(Disapproved.)

No. 225 (Submitted by Department of California)—*Military Personnel Stationed in the Republic of Korea*

(Disapproved.)

No. 226 (Submitted by Department of Pennsylvania)—*Adopt a Veteran*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that each Post of the VFW be encouraged to institute a program which will be called "Adopt a Veteran" to provide a measure of companionship and comfort to such veterans; and

Be it further resolved, that such a program become a part of the National VFW Community Activities program to serve such lonely veterans. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 227 (Submitted by Department of Pennsylvania)—*Urge Public Support for All POW/MIA'S*

(Disapproved.)

No. 228 (Submitted by Department of Pennsylvania)—*Help Homeless Veterans*

(Disapproved.)

No. 229 (Submitted by Department of Pennsylvania)—*Korean Service Eligibility*

(Disapproved.)

No. 230 (Submitted by Department of New York)—*Review Installation Ceremony in VFW Ritual*

(Disapproved.)

#### CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE ON GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

No. 301 (Submitted by Commander-in-Chief)—*Recognize the Women Who Served in the Vietnam War*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we continue to support the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project as a national project, to honor all servicewomen who served during the Vietnam War, which will complete the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC; and

Be it further resolved, that the Department of Interior, the National Capitol Planning Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts, and Congress, if necessary, be encouraged to approve the needed land at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial site in Washington, DC, for the addition of a statue depicting a woman veteran. (Adopted.)

No. 302 (Submitted by Commander-in-Chief)—*All Military Women Memorial*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we recognize the devotion, sacrifice and character of ALL

WOMEN who voluntarily and honorably served in the United States Armed Forces during the many conflicts of this great republic; and

Be it further resolved, that we advocate and support the creation of an appropriate national memorial to these women and that we distribute on behalf of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Inc., information to our Posts, County Councils, Districts and Departments to assist them in furthering their objective. (Adopted.)

*No. 303 (Submitted by Department of Connecticut)—Full and Complete Investigation of Jane Fonda*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon the Attorney General of the United States of America to fulfill his sworn duty to all the citizens of our great nation by putting aside any political considerations and state a full and complete investigation of Jane Fonda and if the results so warrant under the laws of our land, she be indicted and charged with the crime of treason against the United States of America and its people; and

Be it further resolved, that all Department Commanders be encouraged to appoint a committee that will effectively have the members of each Department notify the Justice Department of their interest to have Jane Fonda investigated for the crime of treason. (Adopted.)

*No. 304 (Submitted by Department of Kansas)—Subpoena Jane Fonda To Answer Charges of Treason*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that due to the many treasonable statements and actions of Jane Fonda during the Vietnam War, which openly supported the then enemy of the United States, that Jane Fonda should be tried by the United States Government as a traitor for her actions against the United States of America in North Vietnam; and

Be it further resolved, that we ask that each individual state petition their Congressmen to join in the subpoena to have Jane Fonda answer to the charges of treason against the Government and people of the United States of America. (Adopted.)

*No. 305 (Submitted by Department of Kansas)—Denounce Jane Fonda's Movie, "Union Street"*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we denounce further movie making activities which star Jane Fonda, known to have been a consort of an enemy of the United States Government during an act of war. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 306 (Submitted by Department of Kansas)—Non-Acceptance of Jane Fonda's Apology*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that lacking a good faith assurance of Jane Fonda's willingness to make amends for her past misdeeds through positive action and lacking convincing evidence that her "apology" is not a cynical act to clean-up her public image, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States rejects her attempt to rectify her wartime collaboration. (Adopted.)

*No. 307 (Submitted by Department of Kansas)—Peyronies Syndrome*  
(Disapproved.)

*No. 308 (Submitted by Department of Kansas)—Oppose Changing the Smithsonian Museum Display Policy*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we are unalterably opposed to any nationalistic focus by the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum to in any way question or suggest impropriety heroism of American airmen by displaying and suggesting for sympathy for the "other side." (Adopted.)

*No. 309 (Submitted by Department of Colorado)—"Get Tough" Policy on Narcotics*  
(Disapproved.)

*No. 310 (Submitted by Department of Colorado)—Nuclear Powerplant Safety*  
(Disapproved.)

*No. 311 (Submitted by Department of Maine)—Concerning Parking Fees at Arlington National Cemetery*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we oppose this practice and express to the Department of Army that we consider this to be a travesty that should be halted. (Adopted.)

*No. 312 (Submitted by Department of Nebraska)—Recognize the Native Americans Who Served in Vietnam*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 313 (Submitted by Department of Nebraska)—Recognize Women Who Served in Vietnam*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 314 (Submitted by Department of Iowa)—Memorial To Honor Those Killed in the Invasion of Grenada*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that it being a matter of honor to recognize those who so gallantly laid down their lives to preserve the freedom of the Island of Grenada, we petition Congress to enact legislation to provide such a memorial. (Adopted.)

*No. 315 (Submitted by Department of Iowa)—Display of POW/MIA Flag at U.S. Post Offices*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition the United States Postal Service, to display, in an appropriate manner, the POW/MIA Flag adopted by the National League of Families along with the United States Flag as a method of keeping the public aware of the plight of our missing servicemen; and

Be it further resolved, that upon acceptance of this resolution by the U.S. Postal Service, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts across the United States take the initiative to try to provide the POW/MIA Flag to area Post Offices at no cost to the Postal Service. (Adopted.)

*No. 316 (Submitted by Department of Washington)—Preserve the U.S.S. Hornet as a National Historical Monument*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we recognize and approve of this historic venture and will assist, where possible, in the procurement and preservation of the U.S.S. Hornet as a national historical monument. (Adopted.)

*No. 317 (Submitted by Department of California)—American War Veterans Relief Association Class Action Suit*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we oppose the class action suit of the American War Veterans Relief Association to stop reparation payments to interned Japanese-Americans during World War II. (Adopted.)

*No. 318 (Submitted by Department of California)—U.S. Postmaster General Designation of POW/MIA Postage Stamp*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we go on record with our continued support of this resolution to provide a POW/MIA postage stamp, symbolic to the cause. (Adopted.)

*No. 319 (Submitted by Department of Illinois)—Placing of World War II Japanese Submarine at Site of U.S.S. Arizona Memorial*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call on the U.S. National Park Service and any other public and/or private organizations stating our displeasure with this action. (Adopted.)

*No. 320 (Submitted by Department of Illinois)—Equalize Social Security Benefits*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that Congress be urged to enact legislation to rectify this inequity of benefits under Social Security so that those born during these so-called "Notch Years" meaning January 1, 1917, through December 31, 1921, would receive comparable Social Security retirement income to those with the same income base as those born before January 1, 1917, or after December 31, 1921; and

Be it further resolved, that the formulas for computing Social Security benefits be equal for all workers and all retirees regardless of their date of birth. (Adopted.)



*No. 321 (Submitted by Department of New Jersey)—Protect Citizens Right To Bear Arms*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we propose measures and rules to block all attempts by local, state, and federal governments to deprive honest citizens of their 2nd Amendment rights and work with other organizations such as the National Rifle Organization in order to defeat all passage of laws in state and national levels which threaten our 2nd Amendment rights; and

Be it further resolved, that this opposition to any laws which threaten our constitutional right to keep and bear arms be published in books, VFW Magazines, and newspapers to let all involved know that in no way will the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States stand for the slow insidious movement to deprive honest citizens of any of our Constitutional rights. (Adopted.)

*No. 322 (Submitted by Department of Minnesota)—Using POW/MIA Bracelet for Aids Victims*  
(Disapproved.)

*No. 323 (Submitted by Department of Idaho)—Reaffirm Our Right To Own and Bear Arms*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we ask Congress to reaffirm our right to own and bear arms as provided for in the United States Constitution. (Adopted.)

*No. 324 (Submitted by Department of Idaho)—Support Special Isotope Separation Facilities at Idaho National Engineering Laboratory*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support the building and operation of the S.I.S. at I.N.E.L. near Idaho Falls, Idaho. (Adopted.)

*No. 325 (Submitted by Department of Missouri)—Subpoena Jane Fonda To Answer Charges of Treason*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we request the VFW National Headquarters confer with the Attorney General of the United States regarding a proper way to punish Jane Fonda according to the laws of our nation. (Adopted.)

*No. 326 (Submitted by Department of Missouri)—Refrain From Supporting Jane Fonda and Those Whom She Gives Support*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that all VFW members pledge to refrain from attending any motion picture or performance in which Jane Fonda appears, or from purchasing any merchandise which provides a profit to this traitor. Furthermore, let us withhold our votes at election time from any candidates who accept campaign contributions from Jane Fonda and let us urge our families, friends and neighbors to follow our example. Let us stand with those who stand for America, and not with those who seek its defeat. (Adopted.)

*No. 327 (Submitted by Department of District of Columbia)—Support Erection of the Armored Forces Monument at the Entrance Area of Arlington National Cemetery as a Memorial To Honor Our Armed Forces*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we shall assist in the securing of the funds necessary to erect this grand Memorial to honor our armored forces, and encourage our Posts to join in this noble endeavor to raise the necessary funds to construct this grand monument. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 328 (Submitted by Departments of District of Columbia and Virginia)—Support Congressional Proposal To Establish World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support any congressional proposal which would indeed establish authorization to provide a World War II memorial in Washington, D.C., in a manner similar to the prior action taken by Congress allowing memorials recognizing the veterans who served in Korea and Vietnam. (Adopted.)

*No. 329 (Submitted by Department of Mississippi)—Unfair Surtax*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to amend this catastrophic surtax in

such a fashion so as to substantially reduce this horrendous burden placed upon citizens over the age of 65. (Adopted.)

*No. 330 (Submitted by Department of Washington)—Repeal/Modification of Public Law 100-36 (CATCAP)*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support the repeal or modification of Public Law 100-36 (CATCAP). (Adopted.)

*No. 331 (Submitted by Department of Pennsylvania)—Request U.S. Postal Service To Issue Stamp in Recognition of U.S. Servicemen Listed as POW/MIA'S*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we request the United States Postal Service issue a stamp in recognition of the American servicemen listed as POW/MIA's. (Adopted.)

*No. 332 (Submitted by Department of Wisconsin)—Commendation of Harley-Davidson Motor Company*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we highly commend Harley-Davidson for their construction, dedication and display of a veterans memorial. (Adopted.)

*No. 333 (Submitted by Department of California)—Request Action Regarding Actress Jane Fonda*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that as a form of retribution to those veterans who so honorably and courageously served this nation in the Vietnam Conflict and, as a memorialization to those who sacrificed their lives in honoring their country's call to duty and in recognition of the monstrous human suffering endured by our American prisoners of war at the instigation of Actress Jane Fonda and in remembrance of those still listed as missing in action in Southeast Asia, we request that every member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars actively boycott any and all products and/or forms of entertainment either produced, manufactured or endorsed by Actress Jane Fonda, being cognizant of the fact that, as reported by the news media, Ms. Fonda's exercise books and tapes alone earned in excess of \$100 million, which revenue is the primary source of funds that have and will continue to be used to finance Thomas E. Hayden's political ambitions; and

Be it further resolved, that we encourage all members, as an integral part of this active boycott, to contact, either in person or by letter, local merchants, retailers and chain stores who merchandise Ms. Fonda's products and/or endorsed products, to discontinue carrying these products. (Adopted.)

*No. 334 (Submitted by Commander-in-Chief)—Endorse Efforts of the Atomic Library and Technology Foundation To Develop the American Park at Independence, Missouri*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we commend and endorse the efforts of the Atomic Library and Technology Foundation to develop the American Park at Independence, Missouri. (Adopted.)

*No. 335 (Submitted by Department of New Jersey)—Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988 (HR 2470)*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we reaffirm our belief in the constitutional right of equal and just treatment of all peoples, demand the repeal of (HR 2470) the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988. (Adopted.)

*No. 336 (Submitted by Department of Oklahoma)—Catastrophic Medical Coverage*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we request the Congress to delay implementation of this legislation until further study can be made to determine if a more reasonable funding for the program can be accomplished. (Adopted.)

*No. 337 (Submitted by Department of Florida)—Reassembly of Japanese Two Man Mini Submarine*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition Congress to disapprove the efforts of the Arizona Memorial Association and National Park Service to ship the Japanese submarine from Key West to Hawaii. (Adopted.)

*No. 338 (Submitted by Department of Virginia)—Discriminatory Financing of the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act (PL 100-360)*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that Congress be requested to eliminate the discriminatory "supplemental premium" or surtax financing plan for the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act. (Adopted.)

*No. 339 (Submitted by Commander-in-Chief)—Designate Kansas City Union Station as a National Monument and War Museum*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, to reaffirm our resolve that Union Station be transformed into a national monument and war museum in order that the memory of those who fought in American wars, declared and undeclared, the hardships they endured and their achievements become part of the national patrimony; and

Be it further resolved, that we urge Congress to designate and provide funds for the establishment of Kansas City Union Station as a national monument and war museum. (Adopted.)

*No. 340 (Submitted by Department of New York)—Oppose Transfer of Japanese Submarine to U.S.S Arizona Memorial*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we register our objection to this proposal and request a Congressional resolution to prevent the Park Service from performing this outrageous proposal. (Adopted.)

*No. 341 (Submitted by Department of New York)—Adjust the Inequities in Social Security*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support the implementation of the Sanford/Ford Solution as soon as possible to correct the inequities caused by this discriminatory and unjust law concerning Social Security. (Adopted.)

*No. 342 (Submitted by Department of New York)—Keep Japanese Mini Sub Out of Pearl Harbor*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition the Congress and the President of the United States to stop the National Park Service and the Arizona Memorial Association from placing the Japanese mini submarine anywhere in Pearl Harbor. (Adopted.)

*No. 343 (Submitted by Department of New York)—Issue First Day Commemorative Stamp Honoring 125th Anniversary of Memorial Day*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we request the issuance of a special commemorative stamp honoring the naming of Waterloo, New York, as the "Birthplace of Memorial Day" on May 30, 1991. (Adopted.)

*No. 344 (Submitted by National Council Member C. W. Kelly)—Opposition to Jane Fonda*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon Jane Fonda to visit the Governments of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia and use her influence in these countries to cause the release of all U.S. servicemen and civilians being held prisoners and cause the return of all remains of U.S. citizens, military or civilian, known to exist in those countries. That said visits to be in whatever length as is necessary to accomplish results satisfactory to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and totally at the expense of Jane Fonda; and

Be it further resolved, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars call upon our members to exercise their constitutional rights and boycott any and all products and performances produced for or by Jane Fonda or any products or programs endorsed by Jane Fonda. That said boycott continue in force until Jane Fonda satisfactorily complies with the terms and conditions of this resolution. (Adopted.)

*No. 345 (Submitted by Department of Florida)—Fund American Health Care Plan (Disapproved.)*

*No. 346 (Submitted by Department of California)—Fortieth Anniversary of Korean War Remembrance—June 25, 1990*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we do hereby declare June 25, 1990, as the Fortieth Anni-

versary of Korean War Remembrance Day and urge the Congress of the United States to make a similar declaration. (Adopted.)

CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND POW/MIA

*No. 401 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Take Action in Central America*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the United States Government face up to the mounting danger to our security and to the stability of Central America from these expanding threats; and

Be it further resolved, that the government take such action as necessary to prevent the Panamanian dictator from interfering in the operation of the Panama Canal and take action to prevent the turnover of the Panama Canal so long as the dictator Noriega remains in power; and

Be it further resolved, that the Congress and the Administration launch a new effort to isolate the Nicaraguan Communists and to block further communist penetration of Central America, by providing political, economic, humanitarian and military aid as needed to support friendly democratic governments that will ensure the security and stability of democratic countries and check the expansion of communist intrusion into the Western Hemisphere. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 402 (Submitted by Many Departments)—America's Prisoners of War and Missing in Action: A Non-Negotiable Matter of Honor*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the VFW remains determined to resolve this important issue and supports the President's pledge of highest national priority to resolve the status of Americans still missing and unaccounted for in Indochina; and

Be it further resolved, that the VFW urges to U.S. Government to ensure this issue remains one of highest national priority and to accelerate government-to-government contact in every possible way to obtain the immediate release of any Americans who may still be held captive in Indochina and the return of American servicemen and civilians who have died in Southeast Asia whose remains have not been returned; and

Be it further resolved, that maximum U.S. economic and diplomatic pressure be sustained, for as long as it takes, to the end that those nations and movements which are hindering the search for the MIA's desist from this cruel practice and assist in the search effort as called for not only in the Paris Accords of 1973, but also by our common humanity; and

Be it further resolved, that the Administration and the Congress continue to speak out forcefully and publicly on this issue of our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 403 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Military Service: A Profession To Be Preserved*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the VFW continues our unflinching support for all components of the uniformed services, specifically by not relaxing our true perception of America's professional military as being members of a unique calling; and

Be it further resolved, that we intensify our efforts to bring into being a "GI Bill of Rights" which would cause the government to detail, with precision, those entitlements which accompany either short term or career military service and which then cannot be summarily withdrawn from him or her in service or following his or her period of service. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 404 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Standing Watch Over Communist Cuba*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon the President and the Congress to continue the present policy of no trade with Communist Cuba, and the policy of no diplomatic recognition of that communist state for as long as it remains the policy of that Cuban communist regime to retain the many harsh injustices now extant in that unfortunate land and have their armed forces serve under the strategic direction of the Soviet Union; and

Be it further resolved, that the United States begin at once to compel the withdrawal of Cuban troops and advisors from Central and South America, Africa and Asia and to block all Cuban subversion and support for the expansion and intrusion of communism in the Free World; and



Be it further resolved, that the United States Government, under no circumstances, grant concessions affecting complete and undiluted U.S. control and use of Guantanamo Bay as a Naval Base of supreme strategic, as well as political importance; and

Be it further resolved, that the President of the United States continues SR71 intelligence gathering overflights of Cuba to insure more accurate intelligence gathering as to the manner in which the "Kennedy-Khrushchev Agreement" of 1962 is being honored by the Cubans; and

Be it further resolved, that should the Soviet Union move dramatically against the United States or our vital interests, we promptly and effectively blockade the Soviet bastion of Cuba. (Adopted.)

*No. 405 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Reduce Nuclear Risk Not Nuclear Deterrence*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support such negotiations that will achieve such sharp reductions and will lead to an enhancement of our national security; and our national security interests abroad while reducing the risk of nuclear conflict; and

Be it further resolved, that unless a complete and verifiable ban on mobile ICBM missiles is negotiated, the VFW believes that the United States must continue to develop the mobile "Midgetman" ICBM while at the same time completing the modernization of our land based ICBMs through the future deployment of the MX "Peacekeeper" missile; and

Be it further resolved, that our Strategic Defense Initiative program not be considered for, or used as a basis for, such arms reduction negotiations so long as the Soviets maintain their superiority in strategic offensive and defensive weapons. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 406 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Maintain Strategic Defense as a Priority*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the President and Congress to continue accelerated research and development of advanced technologies which offer the possibility of protecting our country and its allies from missile attack; and

Be it further resolved, that sustained research should focus on determining the requirements for the most reliable anti-ballistic missile system and that a comparable study effort should examine our civil defense and air defense needs and the strategic implications of a possible new national defense posture; and

Be it further resolved, that our nation's Strategic Defense Initiative Program not be considered for, or used as the basis for, negotiations so long as Soviet strategic offensive and defensive weapons continue to threaten the security of the United States and our allies; and

Be it further resolved, that the President and Congress continue to support the strategic force modernization program to assure peace through strength and to provide the protection and incentive for U.S. industry to tap their enormous research and development potential to assure our continued survival as a nation free from coercion and intimidation. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 407 (Submitted by Many Departments)—The VFW: Standing Firm for Freedom*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that as the core of our national security program, the VFW reasserts and reconfirms its longstanding position for freedom and against communism and presses home this informed and deeply moral view to the President and the Congress of the United States; and

Be it further resolved, that we call upon the President and the Congress—as a long-term measure not merely as a reaction to Iran, Afghanistan and Nicaragua—to stop the export from our country to the Soviet Union of sophisticated machine tools, chemical processing equipment, electronics equipment, or information including plans and techniques for manufacturing same, all of which, if permitted to continue or resume, will work against the security interests of the United States of America in that the export of said items will strengthen the war-making abilities of the Soviet Union which could be used against us or our allies in the future; and

Be it further resolved, that any exports of nonstrategic items to the USSR from the United States shall be for cash, except in cases of widespread famine, and must be carried on U.S. ships and not upon the credit of the United States or other offsetting arrangements. (Adopted.)

*No. 408 (Submitted by Many Departments)—No Neutrals in the War on Terrorism*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the President to take decisive action by:

(a) going on the offensive against terrorists rather than passively remaining on the defense;

(b) instituting a quarantine of those "outlaw countries" guilty of, or suspected of, harboring or aiding terrorists; and

(c) holding all other countries accountable for the security of American citizens while travelling abroad; and

(d) openly reminding those countries who have been unwilling to assist our counterterrorist efforts that "there are no neutrals in the war against terrorists;" and

Be it further resolved, that we urge the Congress to condemn Greece for harboring and aiding terrorist suspects and for the Congress and the President to act in concert to quarantine Greece as an "outlaw country." (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 409 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Provide Support for the Philippines*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 410 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Oppose Homosexual Acceptance in the Military*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 411 (Submitted by Many Departments)—National Strategy of Peace Through Strength*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the United States continue vigorously to support a National Strategy of Peace Through Strength, the general principles of which would be:

(1) to maintain a strong economy and protect our overseas sources of energy and other vital raw materials;

(2) to help our allies and other non-communist countries defend themselves against communist aggression;

(3) to pursue positive non-military means to roll back the growth of communism;

(4) to reestablish effective security and intelligence capabilities;

(5) to accept no arms control agreement which in any way jeopardizes the security of the United States or its allies, or locks the U.S. into a position of military inferiority;

(6) to create a strategic defense and a civil defense which would protect U.S. citizens against nuclear war at least as well as the Soviets defend their citizens;

(7) to achieve overall military and technological superiority over the Soviet Union; and

(8) to inspire, focus and unite the national will and determination to achieve this goal of peace and freedom. (Adopted.)

*No. 412 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Europe's Military Balance Requires Action*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that both the United States and other NATO countries decide upon and commence with a conventional forces upgrade and modernization program to eliminate the long known vulnerabilities; and

Be it further resolved, that the United States and the other NATO countries should plan to carry this program forward to the point of significantly strengthening NATO and redressing the military balance in Europe. (Adopted.)

*No. 413 (Submitted by Many Departments)—National Defense: Whatever it Takes*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that:

(a) Congress "raises and supports" an increase in the active and reserve structure and Army National Guard to 28 divisions to adequately meet the many commitments worldwide it faces;

(b) the Congress "provides and maintains" a combat-ready Marine Corps with sufficient funds to maintain a strength of at least four divisions and four airwings (including one division and one wing as reserves) and continue support for the development and acquisition of the V-22 Tiltrotor aircraft;

(c) the Congress "provides and maintains" the U.S. Navy, in the face of unprecedented Soviet maritime buildup, to again become the world's most modern, powerful and versatile naval power, specifically to include a comprehensive TRIDENT submarine, carrier, batt ship and other surface ship building program;

(d) the National Guard and Reserve of all the services be fully funded, manned and supported in line with their sharply enhanced importance under the "total force program";

(e) we reaffirm our support for a U.S.-built, enlarged and modern Merchant Marine as a vital element of our nation's maritime policy to include the needed subsidies;

(f) we support strong, meaningful and separate military departments (Army, Navy and Air Force) under their service Secretaries;

(g) we advocate continued development of nuclear weapons to include integrated strategic targeting, operational missile flights from ICBM silos, cruise missile test flights and, where necessary, testing of such weapons to sustain and preserve our role as the strategic guardian of the Free World;

(h) we support adequate U.S. forces under NATO to include the prompt deployment of modern theater nuclear forces that will overcome any vulnerabilities that result from the INF Treaty; and

(i) we support every feasible public and private measure to restore and enhance the discipline, morale, *esprit de corps*, and professionalism of the armed forces; and

Be it further resolved, that in the instances when U.S. combat forces are deployed, the Commanders of such forces be given clear military missions, that our combat forces be given the resources and support to accomplish their mission and that the political decision to commit our forces fully recognizes the necessity of gaining and maintaining the full support of the entire nation. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 414 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Support Presidential Envoy for POW/MIA'S*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we continue to support General John W. Vessey as the Special Presidential Emissary to Vietnam and urge his continued participation in all policy discussions concerning this issue; and

Be it further resolved, that General Vessey and/or General Robert C. Kingston continue to review the findings of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Senior Review Group concerning all aspects of the intelligence effort devoted to the POW/MIA issue; and

Be it further resolved, that we urge the Vietnamese Government's cooperation with us and urge them to further expand this cooperation so that the fate of our missing men can be quickly resolved. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 415 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Act Now To Prevent the Use of Chemical Weapons*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the President and the Congress to establish tight controls over chemical weapons technology and materials, and to coordinate the undiluted acceptance of these controls to prevent the impact of such technology and materials to radical countries; and

Be it further resolved, that the United States Government announce that we will retaliate in kind against any country or terrorists who use chemical or biological weapons anywhere in the world; and

Be it further resolved, that if the Libyan chemical plant reaches the production stage, the United States should exercise all available means, including military force, to prevent its use in the manufacture of chemical weapons. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 416 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Act Now To Prevent Strategic Surprise*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon the President to instruct his arms negotiators to insist that the Soviets dismantle or destroy the Krasnoyarsk radar and cease construction of other similar radars as a precondition for any further U.S.-USSR strategic arms reduction; and

Be it further resolved, that if the Krasnoyarsk radar is not dismantled or destroyed within a reasonable time, that the U.S. reactivate our own missile defense radar at Grand Forks, North Dakota, and accelerate the development of our own Strategic Defense Program to prevent the Soviets from suddenly breaking out of the 1972 ABM Treaty and gaining the strategic advantage over the United States. (Adopted.)

*No. 417 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Support for the U.S. Coast Guard*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Congress and the Administration to provide

the funding necessary for the Coast Guard to carry out its numerous important duties, including, but not limited to, drug enforcement, military readiness, pollution, maritime safety, search and rescue mission as well as their many other duties and missions. (Adopted.)

*No. 418 (Submitted by Many Departments)—A Fifteen Carrier Navy Is a Necessity*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly endorse the earliest possible attainment of the President's goal of 15 deployable aircraft carriers as the absolute minimum number required to ensure U.S. on-scene response to world trouble spots is timely and presents a credible military force in support of our essential national interests; and

Be it further resolved, that the early retirement of one or more of our oldest carriers is an imprudent sacrifice of a major military capability to obtain marginal short-term cost savings. (Adopted.)

*No. 419 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Increase Armed Forces Mobility*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support current efforts to upgrade our airlift and sealift capability to meet our current military commitments; and

Be it further resolved, that future efforts be undertaken to upgrade our air and sealift capability to meet anticipated future commitments; and

Be it further resolved, that every effort be made to retain the quantity and quality of pilots needed to carry out their missions; and

Be it further resolved, that the Congress and the Administration approve the necessary funding to lift the U.S. merchant fleet from 14th in the world to its proper place—1st. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 420 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Concerning the Korean War MIA Issue*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the VFW remains determined to resolve the status of Americans still unaccounted for in Korea through government-to-government channels; and

Be it further resolved, that the VFW urges the U.S. Government to continue to exert the maximum economic and diplomatic pressure on North Korea and to speak out forcefully and publicly when necessary until we resolve this longstanding humanitarian issue. (Adopted.)

*No. 421 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Support Public Awareness Projects*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the National Organization will:

(a) ensure routine distribution to the field of pertinent, credible and responsible information on a routine basis;

(b) encourage participation in this program by veterans groups of other friendly nations such as the NATO allies and Far Eastern allies; and

(c) encourage exchange of information among State POW/MIA Chairmen to include publishing up-to-date address lists; and

Be it further resolved, that each Department exercise maximum initiatives to maintain the vitality and thrust of the POW/MIA program at Department and local levels by encouraging such actions as:

(a) display of the black POW/MIA flag, subordinate to the U.S. Flag, at any function at which it is proper to fly the U.S. Flag;

(b) work closely with family and concerned POW/MIA organizations at all major events, and rendering cooperation and support to them;

(c) encourage support in information exchange at Post levels; and

(d) appoint an interested member at Post level to act as the POW/MIA project agent; and

(e) that the National Organization of the VFW support the annually announced POW/MIA Recognition Day. (Adopted.)

*No. 422 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Stop Illegal Immigration at the Border*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition the President and the Congress to expand and strengthen the Customs and Immigration services and that appropriate military resources be employed to assist in stopping the flow of illegal aliens. (Adopted.)

*No. 423 (Submitted by Department of Connecticut)—POW Medal for Pueblo Survivors*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon the Secretary of Defense to amend the cur-



rent regulations authorizing the POW medal only in armed conflict and that it be extended to those held captive on the U.S.S. *Pueblo*. (Adopted.)

*No. 424 (Submitted by Departments of Colorado and Connecticut)—Concerning the Granting of Asylum, Residence, Temporary or Permanent, in the United States or its Territories to any Leader, President, Monarch or Dictator*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge our United States Senators and Representatives and the President of the United States not to allow the granting of political asylum to former heads of state who are guilty of such acts of inhumanity against their people. (Adopted.)

*No. 425 (Submitted by Department of Colorado)—Concerning the POW/MIA Issue (Disapproved.)*

*No. 426 (Submitted by Department of Colorado)—POW/MIA: The Highest National Priority*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we not be pressured into a compromising position by splinter groups making a living off of the POW/MIA issue or misinformed persons with good intentions. Be it known that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is an organization of its own dedication and survivors need not be forced into nonsupport of the federal government by splinter pressure groups when said government is properly pursuing its objective. We, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, can make our own decisions and stick by them with the knowledge we have as veterans advising the government; and

Be it further resolved, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States supports the government in its current initiative, and that we support the government in the non-release of highly sensitive information to the news media or any other group that might use said information for sensationalistic purposes instead of for the advantage of the release of our POW/MIA's, alive or deceased, from any foreign nation. (Adopted and amended.)

*No. 427 (Submitted by Department of California)—Military Leave for U.S. Government Employees*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support this resolution to correct the deficiency of Title 10, U.S. Code, by increasing military leave from 15 calendar days to permit up to 30 days military leave, to make it compatible with other state, county and city governmental agencies; and

Be it further resolved, that we petition Congress to enact a legislative change in Title 10, U.S. Code, which would provide up to 30 days of military leave for all U.S. Government employees who are members of the reserve forces. (Adopted.)

*No. 428 (Submitted by Department of Colorado)—Support Montgomery Amendment and National Guard*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that continued support of the Montgomery Amendment is imperative to implement adequate training of the National Guard to continue as an integral and vital part of the total force concept of the Armed Forces of the United States. (Adopted.)

*No. 429 (Submitted by Department of Colorado)—Appropriations to International Lending Agencies*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that future congressional appropriations to international lending agencies be contingent on such agencies' compliance with strict standards which would exclude loans to nations that give aid and comfort to hostile groups or which are demonstrably hostile to the United States, including communist and communist-dominated countries and countries which do not cooperate in our search for POW/MIA victims of past wars. (Adopted.)

*No. 430 (Submitted by Department of Montana)—Transfer Title of Commander-in-Chief to the Chairperson of the Joint Chiefs of Staff During Military Conflict (Disapproved.)*

*No. 431 (Submitted by Department of Mississippi)—Pardon LTC (Ret.) Oliver North*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that at such time as the judicial process so indicates or at any

other appropriate or desired time, the President of the United States be urged to grant LTC (Ret.) Oliver North a full pardon and restore him to all of the rights and privileges of any other such loyal and patriotic citizen of our country. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 432 (Submitted by Department of Michigan)—Say "No" to Funding the USSR*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly urge the President and the Congress of the United States to insist upon close supervision and investigation of lending policies to the USSR, and communist bloc countries, with the objective of the protection of the best U.S. financial interests. (Adopted.)

*No. 433 (Submitted by Department of Oregon)—America's Prisoners of War and Missing In Action: A Non-Negotiable Matter of Honor*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 434 (Submitted by Department of Oregon)—No Neutrals in the War on Terrorism*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 435 (Submitted by Department of Oregon)—Support Public Awareness Projects*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 436 (Submitted by Department of Washington)—Abrogate The 1977 Panama Canal Treaties*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support legislation to abrogate the 1977 Panama Canal Treaties. (Adopted.)

*No. 437 (Submitted by Department of Illinois)—Revision of Missing Service Persons Act*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 438 (Submitted by Department of Georgia)—Oppose Homosexual Acceptance in the Military*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we express our deep concern for the breakdown of our country's defense mechanism, and its obvious possible position of public scrutiny by forcing homosexual acceptance upon our armed forces; and

Be it further resolved, that we unequivocally oppose the efforts of homosexual organizations forcing the Department of Defense to accept or retain homosexuals and urge the Departments of Defense and Justice to take this matter before the Supreme Court to seek final judicial reaffirmation of the homosexual exclusion policy; and

Be it further resolved, that the codes, aforementioned, should be rewritten in an effort to dismiss any possible question of the denial of civil rights based on moral, religious, or ethical behavior, as it is not the intent to inflict that upon said persons, but rather a just concern for the solid stability of our armed forces and its operation. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 439 (Submitted by Department of Louisiana)—No Loans to the Soviets*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 440 (Submitted by Department of Louisiana)—Rescind the Panama Canal Treaty*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 441 (Submitted by Department of Minnesota)—Support U.S. Military Training Flights*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support the need for the U.S. military aircraft to conduct low level training flights over land and sea as necessary to ensure they are able to accomplish both their peacetime and wartime missions. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 442 (Submitted by Department of Minnesota)—Request Congressional Investigation of Most Recent POW Live Sighting in Southeast Asia*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 443 (Submitted by Department of Pacific Areas)—Support for the Republic of China on Taiwan*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the President and Congress to authorize and continue the sale to the Republic of China on Taiwan such advanced aircraft and aircraft technology and such other state of the art weapons and technology as may be necessary to maintain adequate defense capabilities to provide a military balance, guarantee her continued freedom, and promote the cause of stability and peace in the area; and

Be it further resolved, that we support the continued promotion of commercial, technological, educational and cultural relationships and exchanges between the United States and the Republic of China on Taiwan. (Adopted.)

*No. 444 (Submitted by Department of Pacific Areas)—United States Support for the Republic of Korea*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the United States increase its military and economic aid and assistance to the Republic of Korea by providing modern state of the art weaponry and technology to safeguard her freedom, sustain her development, and promote the cause of stability and peaceful development in the Pacific and Asian regions; and

Be it further resolved, that the United States provide a strong, flexible military force in the Republic of Korea to vigorously respond to any military and/or political aggression by North Korea. (Adopted.)

*No. 445 (Submitted by Department of Pacific Areas)—Support for the Philippines and U.S. Bases in Philippines*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the President and Congress to provide political and economic support and military assistance and training necessary to defeat the communists and ensure that the Philippines remains a key part and strategic asset to the defense of the Pacific; and

Be it further resolved, that we support negotiations for the renewal of the leases for the U.S. military bases in the Philippines for as long as the presence of such bases is deemed necessary for the defense of the Philippines and the strategic defense of the Pacific Basin and that any such agreements shall not infringe upon the sovereignty of the Republic of the Philippines; and

Be it further resolved, that if a fair and equitable agreement for renewal of the leases for U.S. military bases in the Philippines cannot be reached, such facilities be moved to an alternate strategic location, in which case no additional compensation should be paid to the Government of the Republic of the Philippines for loss of income which goes into the Philippine economy as a result of the lease of the bases and the presence of a large number of U.S. military personnel stationed there. (Adopted.)

*No. 446 (Submitted by Department of District of Columbia)—No Neutrals in the War on Terrorism*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 447 (Submitted by Department of Massachusetts)—CIB Eligibility*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 448 (Submitted by Department of Pennsylvania)—Solicit Support for Congressional Approval of Mini-Marshall Plan for the Philippines*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 449 (Submitted by Department of Pennsylvania)—United States and Korea Get Full Accounting of POW/MIA's Before Reunification of North and South Korea Is Begun*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we continue to pursue a full accounting of our POW/MIA's. (Adopted.)

*No. 450 (Submitted by Department of Pennsylvania)—Support of House of Representatives Bill No. 1730 Known as "The Missing Service Personnel Act of 1989"*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support and encourage all Congressmen and elected officials to co-sponsor and pass H. R. 1730. (Adopted.)

No. 451 (Submitted by Department of Pennsylvania)—Take Action in Central America

(Disapproved.)

No. 452 (Submitted by Department of Pennsylvania)—America's Prisoners of War and Missing in Action: A Non-negotiable Matter of Honor

(Disapproved.)

No. 453 (Submitted by Department of Pennsylvania)—Europe's Military Balance Requires Action

(Disapproved.)

No. 454 (Submitted by Department of Pennsylvania)—Stop Illegal Immigration at the Border

(Disapproved.)

No. 455 (Submitted by Commander-in-Chief)—Diplomatic Recognition as a Means of Resolving the POW/MIA Issue

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly oppose any proposal that grants diplomatic recognition or economic aid to Communist Vietnam as a means of obtaining information concerning American prisoners or missing in action in Indochina. (Adopted.)

No. 456 (Submitted by Department of Florida)—Delay Making Reparation Payments to Japanese Americans Interned During World War II

(Disapproved.)

No. 457 (Submitted by Department of New York)—Support the Continued Production of F-14 and Future F-21 Fighters

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support and include in our security goals the continued production of the F-14's and the future F-21 and most emphatically and strongly oppose any cuts therein; and

Be it further resolved, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States petition the President and the Congress of the United States to restore F-14 funding in full as planned originally. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 458 (Submitted by Department of New York)—Maintain National Defense Budget

(Disapproved.)

No. 459 (Submitted by Commander-in-Chief)—Support for Effort To Restore the Military Balance in Europe

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we endorse and support the Bush initiative to reduce Soviet forces before considering further reductions of nuclear weapons; and

Be it further resolved, that the negotiations to reduce Soviet forces and weapons include firm measures to verify the Soviet reductions and to insure the Soviet forces are demobilized and their weapons are destroyed; and

Be it further resolved, that notwithstanding our support for President Bush's effort to negotiate these reductions in Soviet forces and weapons in Europe, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will reserve its support for any proposed agreement until the impact on our national security of such an agreement and the measures taken to ensure its verification have been considered by the national leadership of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. (Adopted.)

No. 460 (Submitted by Commander-in-Chief)—Modernization of Our Strategic Arsenal Is Imperative

(Disapproved.)

No. 461 (Submitted by Commander in-Chief)—Restore Lieutenant Colonel North's Retainer Pay

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. endorse the current effort to restore his military retainer pay to Lieutenant Colonel North. (Adopted as amended.)



*No. 462 (Submitted by Commander-in-Chief)—Stop the Overseas Transfer of Sensitive Technology*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the President and the Congress to reexamine the FSX project and halt the transfer of sensitive technology to Japan or other countries which would allow those countries to expand their commercial markets at our expense or which would endanger our national security if resold to the Soviet Union or other communist countries. (Adopted.)

*No. 463 (Submitted by Department of Georgia)—Pardon for Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 464 (Submitted by National Council Member C. W. Kelly)—Panama Canal Treaty*

(Disapproved.)

CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS SERVICE

*No. 601 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Category "A" Veterans Entitlement to Outpatient Care*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that all veterans classified as Category "A" be entitled to outpatient treatment by the Department of Veterans Affairs. (Adopted.)

*No. 602 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Parents Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Housebound Benefits*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support a change to Title 38, United States Code, to allow for recipients of Parents DIC to receive HOUSEBOUND benefits if so qualified. (Adopted.)

*No. 603 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Oppose Waiver of Military Retired Pay*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that veterans who receive military retirement pay be granted the full amount of disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs to which they are entitled without waiving any portion of their retirement pay. (Adopted.)

*No. 604 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Therapeutic and Rehabilitation Compensation*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that legislation be introduced to provide equal treatment for veterans engaged in therapeutic and rehabilitation activities in state veterans health care facilities as is provided in Section 618, Title 38, United States Code, for Department of Veterans Affairs' patients. (Adopted.)

*No. 605 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Amend Title 38, USC, Section 314(k)*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support legislation to amend Section 314(k) of Title 38, United States Code, to add one lung and one kidney to the list of anatomical loss or loss of use disabilities, which now includes creative organs, feet, hands, buttocks, sight, organic aphonia and hearing. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 606 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Extend Malignant Tumors Compensation Presumptions*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that legislation be enacted to extend the one year presumptive period for malignant tumors to three years under 38 USC, Section 312. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 607 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that legislation be sought to amend Section 806, Title 38, United States Code, to permit those veterans determined to be so helpless as to be in need of regular aid and attendance or housebound as well as permanently and totally disabled (100%) to purchase VMLI in the same manner and in the same amount as those currently eligible under Section 806, Title 38, United States Code. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 608 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that legislation be enacted to amend Chapter 19, Title 38, United States Code, to permit service disabled veterans carrying "RH" and "ARH" insurance to increase the amount of their insurance to the same amount provided by SGLI of \$50,000 in multiples of \$5,000 increments. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 609 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Department of Veterans Affairs Per Diem Rates for State Hospitals, Domiciliaries and Veterans's Homes*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the Congress support the continuing initiatives of its individual members calling for reimbursement to the states in an amount meeting at least 50 percent of the actual cost of care provided in the various state hospitals, domiciliaries and veterans homes. (Adopted.)

*No. 610 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Compensation*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that legislation be enacted to extend the current presumptive period for service connection Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis from one year to five years from date of separation from active duty. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 611 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Burial Plot Allowance*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that legislation be sought to increase the burial plot allowance from \$150 to \$250 to defray the burial expense of veterans not buried in a national cemetery; and

Be it further resolved, that the increase of the plot allowance be applied to all veterans currently eligible for the benefit and that we oppose the Department of Veterans Affairs' proposal that would limit eligibility as a cost saving measure. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 612 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Provide for an Open National Cemetery in Every State*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support legislation which would provide at least one open national cemetery in each state to ensure that all veterans may be buried reasonably close to their families. (Adopted.)

*No. 613 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Collocation of VA Regional Offices With VA Medical Centers*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we oppose any collocation of VA Regional Offices on VA Medical Center grounds unless it is clearly shown that it will enhance services to the veterans using that facility. (Adopted.)

*No. 614 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Civilian Award of Purple Heart*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the recent policy approved by the President of the United States to award the Purple Heart to Department of the Army civilian employees who are wounded in international terrorists attacks be reversed and that:

1. The award of the Purple Heart should be limited to U.S. military personnel who are wounded or killed in military action; and
2. The Secretary of the Army should develop a different and appropriate award for Department of the Army civilian employees who are killed or wounded in international terrorists attacks while serving in an official duty capacity. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 615 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Assistance at a National Cemetery*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to review their present policies with the idea in mind to have a person on duty at each national cemetery whenever the cemetery is open and to provide adequate instructions with detailed maps for easy gravesite identification and location. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 616 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Psychotic Disorder Compensation*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that legislation be enacted to amend 38 USC Section 312 to

extend the presumptive period for any psychotic disorder indefinitely for all combat veterans. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 617 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Survivors Dependency and Indemnity Compensation*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to repeal the 10 and 5 year provisions with respect to DIC so that a spouse is entitled to receive DIC payments upon the death of a veteran who is totally service-connected disabled other than on a temporary rating and whose death was not the result of a service-connected disability. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 618 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Ensuring a Guaranteed Entitlement to Medical Care*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that Section 651 of Title 2, United States Code be amended to expand the meaning of the term "entitlement" to recognize an obligation and a requirement to adequately fund programs to a class of individuals, i.e., veterans, who meet eligibility requirements for a service provided by the government and established in law as an entitlement; and

Be it further resolved, that this obligation and requirement to adequately fund programs be construed to mean that specific appropriation support must be established for any medical programs directed by the Congress to be provided to veterans, both now and in the future. (Adopted.)

*No. 619 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Smoking*  
(Disapproved.)

*No. 620 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Reserve Retirement*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Secretary of Defense to issue guidelines to the Secretaries of each branch of service, directing that members of the Reserve Forces be informed periodically in writing as to their status. This should include, but not necessarily be limited to, amount of time they have completed for retirement purposes and whether they meet the criteria established in 10, USC 1332 (a)(1). (Adopted.)

*No. 621 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Military Personnel/Medical Records*  
(Disapproved.)

*No. 622 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Expanded Consideration for Category "B"*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Congress to initiate the appropriate legislative changes to liberalize access of this group to inpatient care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. (Adopted.)

*No. 623 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Withholding of Grave Markers*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to aggressively implement the necessary prohibition, consistent with whatever legal avenues are now available to that Department, to preclude actions of this type by funeral directors; and

Be it further resolved, that we urge the Congress of the United States to review this matter and take any legislative action necessary to prevent the withholding of a veterans grave site marker. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 624 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Prosthetic Services*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the Department of Veterans Affairs establish all necessary controls to ensure that the Director of each medical center, not divert prosthetic service funds for other medical center uses. (Adopted.)

*No. 625 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Schedule for Rating Disabilities*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that Section 355, 38 U.S.C. be amended to provide that no reduction, discontinuance or reverance of benefits will be made solely on a change of law or the results of a new method of testing, without actual improvement demonstrated in the veteran's service connected disability. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 626 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Loan Guaranty Default*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that in each and every case in which the Department of Veterans Affairs pursues nonjudicial foreclosure, such foreclosure shall fully satisfy the obligation secured by the mortgage, or deed of trust, meaning that VA shall be precluded from seeking the loan balance from the borrower (veteran). (Adopted.)

*No. 627 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Compensation for Surgical Removal of Malignant Tumors*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs be called upon to exercise his authority under Section 355, Title 38, United States Code, to amend VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities to provide a rating of 100% for two years following postsurgical treatment for all malignant growths, of all major organs, irrespective of location. (Adopted.)

*No. 628 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Tinnitus*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the Diagnostic Code 6260 of the Schedule for Rating Disabilities be amended to include ototoxicity from medications known to cause tinnitus. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 629 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Staffing Inadequacies in Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we oppose this ongoing budgetary fantasizing and we urge that the imposition of productivity increases be recognized as whimsical, and that personnel staffing for patient care be established based upon the mandate to treat all of those eligible under Public Law 99-272 and, further, that staffing projections recognize the fact of an increased demand to be generated by aging veterans. (Adopted.)

*No. 630 (Submitted by Many Departments)—The Department of Veterans Affairs Budget*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Congress of the United States to pass a budget and appropriation for the Department of Veterans Affairs which will fully fund and maintain the integrity of the benefit and entitlement programs and an enhanced Department of Veterans Affairs hospital and medical care system. (Adopted.)

*No. 631 (Submitted by Many Departments)—To Provide Adequate VA Health Care Budget*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition the Congress of the United States to provide a VA budget which will ensure adequate staffing and funding of VA hospitals, nursing homes, domiciliaries and outpatient facilities to provide for our veterans future health care needs. (Adopted.)

*No. 632 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Cost-of-Living Increase for VA Beneficiaries*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to provide annual increases in an amount at least commensurate with the Consumer Price Index for all Department of Veterans Affairs beneficiaries. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 633 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Herbicide Exposure*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we continue to endorse and support liberalizing criteria for allowing herbicide related claims, to include placing the burden of proof for the award of disability compensation on the U.S. Government rather than on the veteran; and

Be it further resolved, that those veterans now carried on the Department of Veterans Affairs Agent Orange Registry should have the option to be examined by VA to measure dioxin levels to determine whether there are shared medical conditions among them. (Adopted as amended.)



*No. 634 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Adequately Fund the Veterans Health Care System Construction Program*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress, in its annual appropriations, to provide funds to enable the Department of Veterans Affairs to carry out a planned program of modernization or replacement of aging facilities, which includes a sound system for setting construction priorities, and maintaining an up-to-date system of health care facilities, and one suited to its mission of providing medical services for the nation's veterans. (Adopted.)

*No. 635 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Provide Refunds for Cause for the Montgomery G.I. Bill*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we will petition the Congress to allow refunds for proper cause. (Adopted.)

*No. 636 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Homeless Veterans*  
(Disapproved.)

*No. 637 (Submitted by Many Departments)—New Legislative Initiatives*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly urge the Congress of the United States to adequately fund all new individual legislative initiatives and not eliminate or reduce existing veterans entitlements or programs. (Adopted.)

*No. 638 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Provide Pensions for World War I Veterans*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Congress to enact legislation providing a statutory pension for all surviving veterans of World War I. (Adopted.)

*No. 639 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Expand POW Presumptions*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the VFW supports enactment of legislation which would add those medical conditions which are characteristically associated with or can be reasonably attributed to the POW experience as presumptive disorders for former POW's. (Adopted.)

*No. 640 (Submitted by Many Departments)—VA Home Loan Guaranty Program*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that legislation be introduced that will serve to maintain the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program as the most viable and desirable means of home financing for veterans; and

Be it further resolved, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars vigorously opposes any effort to further increase the current loan origination fee or eliminate VA established loan interest maximum, and encourages the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs and other concerned parties to actively assist veterans in acquiring and retaining their homes during economic crisis. (Adopted.)

*No. 641 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Expand Vietnam Era*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we seek legislation in the Congress of the United States that will provide for recognition of these veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs, under the provisions of Title 38, United States Code, subsection 101 (29) by changing the dates of the "Vietnam Era" now beginning August 5, 1964, and ending May 7, 1975, to July 1, 1958, and May 7, 1975. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 642 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Oppose Taxing Compensation Payments to Service-Connected Disabled Veterans*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we oppose any initiative to tax compensation payments paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs to service-connected disabled veterans. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 643 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Expand List of Radiation Related Diseases*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support legislation which would appropriately expand

the list of presumptive service connected disorders for veterans exposed to ionizing radiation incidental to their service in the armed forces. (Adopted.)

*No. 644 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Elimination of User Fees*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we go on record opposing user fees levied against veterans entitlement programs. (Adopted.)

*No. 645 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Military Pre-Separation Employment Programs*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we hereby urge the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to meet recently separated veteran needs by making a concentrated effort to coordinate with the Department of Defense (DOD) permanent pre-separation employment programs at all military discharge facilities of each military service, and that employment assistance be rendered by Veterans' Employment and Training field staff not more than 90 days prior to discharge; and

Be it further resolved, that all pre-separation programs established must comply with the established service priorities as outlined in section 2002, Title 38 United States Code (USC), and that all service persons who are patients transferred to Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers prior to discharge will be afforded the opportunity to receive and participate in the Department of Veterans Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation Services. (Adopted.)

*No. 646 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Educationally Disadvantaged Veterans*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon the Congress to enact legislation to revitalize the intent of the "GI Bill," in particular section 1662(a)(3) and 1691 Title 38 USC, which will redefine educationally disadvantaged as less than 14 years education, and providing assistance on a recurring basis to those veterans who are educationally disadvantaged or requiring vocational training; and

Be it further resolved, that we petition the Congress to refine the Veterans' Education Outreach Program authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Amendment Act of 1986, to encourage veterans, in particular those who are dislocated and without Department of Veterans Affairs education entitlements, to pursue remedial skill training and education. In view of the current cost per credit hour at community colleges, tuition assistance for disadvantaged veterans should be incorporated into this program; and

Be it further resolved, that we support cooperative education programs which capitalize upon two year colleges, and that we support private learning centers offering alternating or parallel periods of employment and study for veterans so that they may be competitive in the rapidly changing "Workforce 2000" labor force. (Adopted.)

*No. 647 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Targeted Jobs Tax Credit (TJTC) Program*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support legislation that will provide TJTC eligibility to any veteran that has been displaced or become a dislocated worker as defined in section 301, Title III Economic Dislocation and Worker Adjustment Assistance Act. (Public Law 100-418, August 23, 1988); and

Be it further resolved, that we petition the Congress of the United States, to introduce and support legislation that will extend TJTC and provide further tax incentives to employers who provide transportation to veterans who have no appropriate public or private transportation. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 648 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Veterans Priority of Service Within the United States Employment Service*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, urges the Congress to enact legislation to establish preferential employment and training services in the following priorities in all the Department of Labor's programs and services to include the United States Employment Service.

Special Disabled Veteran (section 2011 [1] 38 USC)

Disabled Veteran (section 2011 [3] 38 USC)

Conflict Veteran (receipt of campaign/expeditionary medal)

Eligible Veteran (section 2011 [4] 38 USC)

Other Eligible (section 2001 [5] 38 USC); and

Be it further resolved, that we petition the Congress to enact legislation to amend section 2001 (5) Title 38, United States Code (USC) to include a subsection 2001 (5)(D) that would define members of the Ready Reserve and National Guard as "eligible persons" for special consideration in receiving employment service assistance. (Adopted.)

*No. 649 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Veterans' Vocational Training and Retraining Program*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Congress of the United States to enact legislation that modifies JTPA Title IVC to establish a Veterans' Vocational Training and Retraining Program that will:

1. facilitate veteran workers adjustment to relocation and new occupational skills;
2. provide temporary income support during training and retraining;
3. oppose obsolescence through ongoing basic adult education;
4. stimulate employer participation through tax credits for employee training programs and incentives to defray cost of training similar to the current Veterans Job Training Act (VJTA);
5. provide flexibility to the service provider to tailor program assistance to the need of the veterans and the geographic area served;
6. be established as a Veterans' Vocational Training and Retraining Entitlement Program administered by the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training, United States Department of Labor.

Be it further resolved, that we urge the Congress to appropriate not less than \$60 million per year for purposes of administering this Veterans' Vocational Training and Retraining Program. (Adopted.)

*No. 650 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Economic Dislocation and Worker Adjustment Assistance Act (EDWAA)*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the ASVET fulfill the mandates set forth in Public Law 100-323 and 100-689 by ensuring regulations implementing EDWAA include specific provisions for the coordination of services designed for veterans and that the role of the Director of Veterans' Employment Training (DVET) in the provision of EDWAA services be clearly defined; and

Be it further resolved, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States petition the United States Department of Labor to promulgate regulations which provide for preferential services for veterans in all programs authorized by EDWAA in proportion to their incidence of the population in the Service Delivery Areas; and that quality quantitative reporting to determine veterans' participation, in these programs, be developed and submitted to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training. (Adopted.)

*No. 651 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Veterans Employment and Training Administration*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 652 (Submitted by Many Departments)—Veterans Recruitment Authority*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition the Congress of the United States to establish a permanent federal noncompetitive employment program entitled, "Veterans Recruitment Authority," similar to the existing VRA that:

Eliminated the current 14 year education and grade ceiling

Expands eligibility to include recently separated servicemen (defined as one year after separation with other than a dishonorable discharge)

Provides eligibility to all disabled veterans and veterans who have been awarded campaign or expeditionary medals. (Adopted.)

*No. 653 (Submitted by Departments of Arkansas, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota and West Virginia)—Oppose Transfer of Veterans Employment and Training (VETS) to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 654 (Submitted by Department of Connecticut)—Restore Social Security Benefits to Veterans and Spouses*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, we petition Congress to introduce and support legislation to eliminate the Government Pension Offset provisions of the Social Security Act as amended. (Adopted.)

*No. 655 (Submitted by Department of Connecticut)—Expand PTSD Treatment Program*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 656 (Submitted by Department of Connecticut)—Homeless Veterans Suffering From Chronic Mental Illness Disabilities*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge state legislatures and governors to identify and provide domiciliary care and treatment of homeless veterans, providing them with the appropriate medical and psychiatric care and, when warranted, place them in community residential treatment settings and that legislation be established for the continuity of the care and treatment of the homeless veterans; and

Be it further resolved, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars supports legislation to insure continuity in the federal funding of the Homeless Veterans Assistance Act of 1987. (Adopted.)

*No. 657 (Submitted by Department of Connecticut)—Medal of Honor Burial Transportation Entitlements*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we request legislation be enacted to authorize the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to pay for deceased Medal of Honor recipients' transportation costs from the place of death to Arlington National Cemetery or other national cemetery of choice for burial without regard to current eligibility restrictions. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 658 (Submitted by Department of Connecticut)—Increase Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicemembers*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition Congress to amend the unemployment compensation benefits for ex-servicemembers, to enable them to secure benefits immediately upon filing after receiving an honorable discharge and to receive 26 weeks of benefits. (Adopted.)

*No. 659 (Submitted by Department of Connecticut)—Amend the Means Test Income Thresholds*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 660 (Submitted by Department of Colorado)—Amendment to U.S. Code, Title 38, Chapter 41, and 20 CFR 652 To Include Employment Preference for Active Members of National Guard Units and U.S. Armed Forces Reserve Components*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 661 (Submitted by Department of Wyoming)—Opposition To Move VETS Under VA*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 662 (Submitted by Department of Nevada)—Unemployment Compensation for Recently Separated Veterans*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 663 (Submitted by Departments of Arkansas and South Dakota)—Support for Surgery at the Hot Springs VAMC*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we oppose any change in the mission of the Hot Springs VAMC. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 664 (Submitted by Department of Arkansas)—Funding of Veterans Employment and Training Service and LVER and DVOP*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that it strongly urges Congress (1) to provide adequate funds for the operation of the Veterans Employment and Training Service; and (2) that Congress continue to fund the DVOP and LVER positions; and (3) require fiscal accountability to insure that funds for the Veterans Employment and Training Service are in fact used for such veterans' services, or the funds be returned to the Department of Labor. Any additional programs assigned to Veterans' Employment and Training be adequately funded and staffed over and beyond present staff to adequately carry out requirements of the program. (Adopted as amended.)



*No. 665 (Submitted by Department of Arkansas)—JTPA Accountability*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition Congress to amend the JTPA law to require state administrative entities and each service delivery area to submit to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training at the beginning of each contracting period, a copy of their proposed programs to provide services to veterans as individuals and not because they happen to fall in one of the other categories of service wherein their economic or other condition is the consideration and not the fact they were veterans. Said report should indicate types of services proposed and estimated costs for providing such services. Also, they would be required at the end of the contracting period to make a summary report to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training of accomplishments and expenditures. (Adopted.)

*No. 666 (Submitted by Department of Alabama)—Employment Service Policy*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we reaffirm our traditional policy and hereby strenuously oppose any and all attempts to weaken or destroy our nation's Employment Service; and

Be it further resolved, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars urge the Department of Labor and the U.S. Congress, to reverse the trend of declining resources for State Employment Service agencies and provide for a gradual buildup of staff and service points over the next several years, beginning in Fiscal Year 1990. (Adopted.)

*No. 667 (Submitted by Department of Arizona)—Refrain From Considering Disability Compensation as Property of the Marriage in Divorce Settlements*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 668 (Submitted by Department of Massachusetts)—Abolishment of the Means Test*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 669 (Submitted by Department of Hawaii)—Petition the Congress and the President of the United States To Enact Legislation Allowing Taxpayers To Donate Money for the Benefit of American Veterans*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 670 (Submitted by Department of Nebraska)—Expand Fort McPherson National Cemetery at Maxwell, Nebraska*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition Congress to allocate the funds for the purchase of the additional 10 acres of land for the Fort McPherson National Cemetery located in Maxwell, Nebraska. (Adopted.)

*No. 671 (Submitted by Department of Hawaii)—Oppose Transfer of VETS to Department of Veterans Affairs*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 672 (Submitted by Department of Montana)—Oppose the Transfer of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Employment and Training*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 673 (Submitted by Department of Wisconsin)—Veterans Preference in Job Market*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly support veterans preference in federal, state and local employment as provided by a grateful nation and oppose any effort to reduce this preference. (Adopted.)

*No. 674 (Submitted by Department of Wisconsin)—Continue Practice of Promoting and Publicizing Special Hiring Programs for Eligible Veterans*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Office of Personnel Management to continue to promote and publicize these special hiring programs for the noncompetitive appointment of eligible veterans. (Adopted.)

*No. 675 (Submitted by Department of Wisconsin)—Appoint Veterans Service Organizations Representation on State and Private Job and Industry Councils*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Governors of each state to appoint veteran

service organizations representation on all State Job Coordinating Councils and local Private Industry Councils. (Adopted.)

*No. 676 (Submitted by Department of Wisconsin)—Conduct Review of Policy and Decision Making Process in Department of Labor as it Affects Veterans*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Secretary of Labor to conduct a complete review of the policy and programmatic decision making process within the Department of Labor as it affects veterans; and

Be it further resolved, that the Secretary of Labor after that review initiate such corrective action as necessary to ensure that the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans is a part of any and all decision making processes in the Department of Labor that will affect any employment and employment training programs furnished through the department to assure that the letter and the intent of the law governing veterans employment emphasis is preserved. (Adopted.)

*No. 677 (Submitted by Department of Pennsylvania)—Increase Mileage Allowance for Veterans With Service Connected Disabilities Keeping VA Appointments*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we seek legislation to adjust that inequity and to bring travel allowance to a more realistic sum. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 678 (Submitted by Department of Wisconsin)—Support Legislation To Provide Sufficient Funding To Operate the Veterans Job Training Act*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support legislation to permanently authorize the Veterans Job Training Act to provide a sustained program for training and placing eligible veterans; and

Be it further resolved, that such legislation contain authorization for, and Congress be urged to appropriate, sufficient funding at no less \$30 million per year to operate the Veterans Job Training Act. (Adopted.)

*No. 679 (Submitted by Department of Wisconsin)—Prevent Absorption of Veterans Employment and Training Service Into U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*  
(Disapproved.)

*No. 680 (Submitted by Department of Maine)—Change of Dates of Eligibility for Vietnam Veterans*  
(Disapproved.)

*No. 681 (Submitted by Department of Wisconsin)—Provide Sufficient Funds to Vets Employment and Training Service and State Employment Service To Comply With Title 38, U.S. Code, Chapters 41, 42 & 43*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress, the Administration and the Office of Management and Budget to provide sufficient funds for the Department of Labor to adequately fund the Veterans Employment and Training Service and the State Employment Service agencies so both can provide the services to veterans as mandated in Title 38, U.S. Code, Chapters 41, 42 and 43. (Adopted.)

*No. 682 (Submitted by Department of Wisconsin)—Joint Readiness Training Center at Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the U.S. Congress (Senate and House) be urged to locate the National Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. (Adopted.)

*No. 683 (Submitted by Department of Michigan)—Enact Legislation To Compensate American Veterans*  
(Disapproved.)

*No. 684 (Submitted by Department of Michigan)—Combat Veterans—Means Test*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the Congress of the United States be urged to enact legislation that would include combat veterans in the eligibility listing of the Category A Means Test. (Adopted.)

*No. 685 (Submitted by Department of Michigan)—Cost-of-Living Adjustment to the Means Test*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the United States Congress to enact new legisla-

tion that would adjust the Means Test to provide for variations in the cost-of-living to assure that veterans are treated equitably regardless of where they live; and

Be it further resolved, that the Means Test be adjusted for the cost-of-living differentials by the veterans county of residence. (Adopted.)

*No. 686 (Submitted by Department of Michigan)—Provide a Federal Veterans War Bonus*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we request the United States Congress and the President to enact legislation which would provide a federal bonus to Veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 687 (Submitted by Department of Pennsylvania)—Support Adequate Health Care for U.S. War Veterans*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 688 (Submitted by Department of Wisconsin)—Nondiscrimination for Appointees to Court of Veterans Appeals*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we commend the President and Congress for creating the Court of Veterans Appeals; and

Be it further resolved, that the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, endeavors to appoint and confirm appointees, some of who have had service in World War II, the Korean Conflict and Vietnam, notwithstanding the fact that the World War II and Korean veterans may be of mature age. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 689 (Submitted by Department of Oregon)—Psychotic Disorder Compensation*  
(Disapproved.)

*No. 690 (Submitted by Department of Oregon)—Military Personnel/Medical Records*  
(Disapproved.)

*No. 691 (Submitted by Departments of Oregon and Utah)—Guaranteed Entitlement to Nursing Home Care*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Congress to so amend Section 610 of Title 38, as to mandate the provision of nursing home care for those now entitled to inpatient care. (Adopted.)

*No. 692 (Submitted by Departments of Oregon and Utah)—Asset Determination for Access to Medical Care*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Congress to so amend Public Law 99-272 in such a manner as to preclude the necessity for a veteran, suffering a relatively temporary loss of cash income, from having to dispose of property assets, which could later form the basis of his ultimate financial recovery, in order to gain access to needed health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs. (Adopted.)

*No. 693 (Submitted by Departments of Oregon and Utah)—Expand PTSD Treatment Program*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that while recognizing the vast improvements made in treatment of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder by the Department of Veterans Affairs, we strongly support legislative or other initiatives to increase funding specifically earmarked for the establishment of specialized inpatient Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Treatment Units at all suitable VA medical centers. (Adopted.)

*No. 694 (Submitted by Department of Kentucky)—Restore Veterans Status for World War I Veterans Occupation Forces*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition Congress to enact legislation and provide benefits to those persons serving as U.S. Occupation Forces in the European Theatre between November 12, 1918, and July 2, 1921, similar to those established under Public Law 74-344. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 695 (Submitted by Department of New Hampshire)—Reserve Retirement*  
(Disapproved.)

*No. 696 (Submitted by Department of Washington)—Joint Republic of the Philippines-United States Panel on Philippine Veterans' Claims*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support the reconstitution and reconvening of the Joint Republic of the Philippines-United States Panel on Philippine Veterans' Claims if the Government of the Philippines will provide to appropriate United States Government agencies such evidence that bonafide claims by Philippine veterans arising from their activities during World War II remain outstanding. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 697 (Submitted by Department of Pacific Areas)—Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition Congress to pass legislation which will either extend Medicare Coverage, including Medicare Catastrophic Coverage, to all eligible veterans or extend eligibility for care under CHAMPUS beyond the age of 65. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 698 (Submitted by Department of California)—Establishment of a VA Satellite Outpatient Clinic in Bakersfield, California*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we continue to support the VA providing a Satellite Outpatient Clinic to assist veterans in the Bakersfield catchment area and we urge the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees to assure that this proposal has been provided the adequate funding for this Satellite Outpatient Clinic to go into operation to provide quality care to our veterans. (Adopted.)

*No. 699 (Submitted by Department of California)—Veteran Employment Rights*  
(Disapproved.)

*No. 700 (Submitted by Department of California)—Preservation of the National Soldiers' Home Located at the VA Center, West Los Angeles*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we request the United States Congress to ensure adherence to the expressed wishes of the donors of said land, that the terms and consideration of the grant be adhered to, that the Pacific branch of the National Soldiers' Home for Disabled Veterans be maintained on said property, that an opportunity be offered to those who were displaced from said National Soldiers' Home to return thereto and that the admission requirements for entering the home revert back to the original status. (Adopted.)

*No. 701 (Submitted by Department of California)—VA Medical Center, Martinez, California—Facility Modernization*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to provide adequate funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs to undertake the facility clinic addition project and to provide quality patient care at the VA Martinez Medical Center and that the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs be notified of our concerns. (Adopted.)

*No. 702 (Submitted by Department of California)—Mobile Health Care Delivery System*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we go on record urging the Department of Veterans Affairs to support this concept of veterans health care by swiftly implementing the Mobile Health Care Pilot Program called for in PL 100-322; and

Be it further resolved, that we work with the leadership of the Department of Veterans Affairs to actively promote, support and implement this much needed rural veterans health care system under the authority of Public Law 100-322. (Adopted.)

*No. 703 (Submitted by Department of California)—Parents Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Housebound Benefits*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 704 (Submitted by Department of California)—Military Retirement Pay and Veterans Disability Compensation*

(Disapproved.)



*No. 705 (Submitted by Department of California)—National Cemetery Presidio*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that in the event of the closure of the U.S. Army Base, Presidio, San Francisco, California, that we seek the reopening of the San Francisco National Cemetery to allow additional burial sites for veterans and their spouses. (Adopted.)

*No. 706 (Submitted by Department of California)—Utilization of Mather Air Force Base Hospital*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that should Mather Air Force Base close and DOD not maintain management of the medical facility, that we support the Department of Veterans Affairs in their position to secure Mather medical facility as an expansion of their care services for veterans within Northern California to potentially be operated in a shared capacity with DOD; and

Be it further resolved, that through the National Organization's Legislative Service Department we will promote this as a viable option and urge the Congress to support any and all efforts in funding and staffing the Mather AFB medical facility as an extension of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Martinez VAMC medical facility system. (Adopted.)

*No. 707 (Submitted by Department of California)—Addition to the Los Angeles, California National Cemetery*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we request legislation be enacted to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to utilize a portion of this land to extend the present national cemetery at West Los Angeles, California. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 708 (Submitted by Department of California)—Medal of Honor Burial Transportation Entitlements*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 709 (Submitted by Department of Illinois)—Veterans Preference for Employment in State and Federal Government Funded Jobs*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 710 (Submitted by Department of Virginia)—Construct a New VA Medical Center in Northern Virginia*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we request the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to construct this much needed VA Medical Center in Northern Virginia without further delay. (Adopted.)

*No. 711 (Submitted by Department of New Jersey)—Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Compensation*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 712 (Submitted by Department of New Jersey)—Survivors Dependency and Indemnity Compensation*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 713 (Submitted by Department of New Jersey)—Military Personnel/medical Records*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 714 (Submitted by Department of Louisiana)—Make Compensation Assistance Available to Agent Orange Victims at the VAMC in Alexandria, Louisiana*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 715 (Submitted by Department of Minnesota)—Retention of Overpayments by Department of Veterans Affairs*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that all money collected by the Department of Veterans Affairs Centralized Accounts Receivable Division be returned to the Department of Veterans Affairs. (Adopted.)

*No. 716 (Submitted by Department of Minnesota)—Grave Stone Entitlement*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that Congress be petitioned to amend the law to permit the

issuance of a government grave marker for all veterans who received an honorable discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States. (Adopted.)

*No. 717 (Submitted by Department of South Dakota)—Military Personnel/Medical Records*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Transportation with respect to the Coast Guard, to direct that personnel being released from active duty be provided a complete certified copy of their service/medical records, thereby ensuring that claims for veterans benefits are processed without undue delay; and

Be it further resolved, that the Department of Defense be required to perform a complete physical examination on all personnel being separated from active military duty. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 718 (Submitted by Department of Delaware)—Smokers Rights*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly support the rights of smokers, that these individuals have made their choice and each VA facility should continue to set aside areas for their use, thus acknowledging and allowing their right to smoke; and

Be it further resolved, that canteens located at VA facilities continue to carry tobacco products. (Adopted.)

*No. 719 (Submitted by Department of Ohio)—Provide Veterans Pension Based on Service Outside Continental Limits of the United States*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 720 (Submitted by Department of Alaska)—Amend 1971 ANSCA/ANILCA Lands Claim Act*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support an amendment to the 1971 ANSCA/ANILCA Land Claims Act to allow eligible Alaskan Native veteran a grace period of eighteen months from date of enactment to file entitlement applications. (Adopted.)

*No. 721 (Submitted by Department of Alaska)—Ensuring a Guaranteed Entitlement to Medical Care*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that Section 651 of Title 2, United States Code be amended to expand the meaning of the term "entitlement" to recognize an obligation and a requirement to adequately fund programs to veterans, who meet eligibility requirements for a service provided by the government and established in law as an entitlement; and

Be it further resolved, that this obligation and requirement to adequately fund programs be construed to mean that specific appropriation support must be established for any medical programs directed by the Congress to be provided to veterans, both now and in the future. (Adopted.)

*No. 722 (Submitted by Department of Oklahoma)—Reclaim and Renovate the Former Bryan County Memorial Hospital as a VA Health Care Facility*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that a VA study be conducted to determine the feasibility to make the former Bryan County Memorial Hospital a part of the National Veterans Affairs Health Care System. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 723 (Submitted by Department of Oklahoma)—Amend GI Bill for Vietnam Era Veterans*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the Congress of the United States shall honor the original GI Bill education agreement allowing all veterans the same 10-year period in which to use their educational entitlement, and set aside the arbitrary termination date of December 31, 1989. (Adopted.)

*No. 724 (Submitted by Department of Oklahoma)—VA Pharmacy To Honor Private Physicians Prescriptions*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we hereby urge the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to take action to change the current administrative procedures and fill prescriptions written for a service-connected disability by a private medical doctor. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 725 (Submitted by Department of Oklahoma)—Support VETS Programs—LVER/DVOP and Provide Funds  
(Disapproved.)

No. 726 (Submitted by Department of Texas)—Reauthorization of the Veterans Job Training Act  
(Disapproved.)

No. 727 (Submitted by Department of Oklahoma)—Oppose Merging of Medical Systems

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we oppose the merger of the VA, Military and CPUS programs for veterans. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 728 (Submitted by Department of Oklahoma)—Medical Care for War Veterans  
(Disapproved.)

No. 729 (Submitted by Department of Texas)—Provide for Preferential Services to Veterans in JTPA Programs  
(Disapproved.)

No. 730 (Submitted by Department of Oklahoma)—Oppose Moving Veterans Employment Programs to the Department of Veterans Affairs  
(Disapproved.)

No. 731 (Submitted by Departments of Oklahoma and Texas)—Employment Service Policy  
(Disapproved.)

No. 732 (Submitted by Department of District of Columbia)—Oppose Waiver of Military Retired Pay  
(Disapproved.)

No. 733 (Submitted by Department of District of Columbia)—Burial Plot Allowance  
(Disapproved.)

No. 734 (Submitted by Department of District of Columbia)—Provide Pensions for World War I Veterans  
(Disapproved.)

No. 735 (Submitted by Department of District of Columbia)—Strengthen VA Adjudication Process

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition the Congress of the United States to target funding in the VA appropriation sufficient to bring the VA back on line in the area of adjudicating claims in a timely manner. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 736 (Submitted by Department of District of Columbia)—Extend Service Connection for Skin Cancer

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that legislation be enacted to extend the one year presumptive period for malignant tumors in cases involving skin cancer to an indefinite time period to be provided for under 38 USC Section 312(a). (Adopted as amended.)

No. 737 (Submitted by Department of Texas)—Oppose Contracting Out of Federal Jobs Reserved for Veterans

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we seek legislation to prohibit the contracting out of those positions as guards, elevator operators, messengers and custodians restricted by federal statute to veterans preference eligibles. (Adopted.)

No. 738 (Submitted by Department of Texas)—Validity Generalization (VG)

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we oppose the use of Validity Generalization until the Department of Labor issues a standard definition of veterans' priority in job referral and adequate regulations to ensure a priority process is followed; and

Be it further resolved, that we petition the Secretary of Labor to conduct an in-depth review of the Validity Generalization process in cooperation with the Department of Justice and Veterans' Service organizations to determine its impact upon

the labor force and to develop methods by which Validity Generalization may be enhanced as a United States Employment Service referral tool. (Adopted.)

*No. 739 (Submitted by Department of Texas)—Adequate Funding for Title IV-C of the Job Training Partnership Act*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to adequately fund programs under Title IV-C of the Job Training Partnership Act. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 740 (Submitted by Department of Texas)—Support Construction of VA Medical Center in Rio Grande Valley*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support the building of a VA Medical Center in the Rio Grande Valley. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 741 (Submitted by Department of Texas)—Authorize Veterans Residing in Mexico Priority Medical Services*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 742 (Submitted by Department of Texas)—Authorize VA Medical Treatment for Veterans of Squadron 201 of the Mexican Army Air Corps*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 743 (Submitted by Department of Texas)—Oppose Transfer of VETS to Department of Veterans Affairs*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 744 (Submitted by Department of New York)—Restore and Implement Funding for VA Medical Care*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 745 (Submitted by Department of New York)—Initiate Programs To Aid Veterans in Determining Health Related Problems of Agent Orange*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we commend Rensselaer County in New York for the first government entity to begin a program to aid veterans in establishing health related problems of Agent Orange. (Adopted as amended.)

*No. 746 (Submitted by Department of Pennsylvania)—Civilian Award of Purple Heart*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 747 (Submitted by Department of Alabama)—Oppose Transfer of Veterans Employment and Training Service to the Department of Veterans Affairs*

(Disapproved.)

*No. 748 (Submitted by Commander-in-Chief)—Employment Service Funding*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support legislation affording a \$900 million funding level for Wagner-Peyser, 10 percent of which is to be set aside for the purpose of affording veteran incentive grants to states having measurably demonstrated their aggressiveness in implementing veterans employment and training programs, and that funding to bring Wagner-Peyser levels up to a level of \$900 million should be accomplished by supplementing congressionally approved regular appropriations with added funds from the Federal Unemployment Trust Account (FUTA); and

Be it further resolved, that veteran incentive grants provided to states successfully implementing veterans employment and training programs as jointly determined by Assistant Secretary of Veterans Employment and Training (ASVET) and Assistant Secretary of Employment and Training Administration (ETA) be subject to a criteria based on:

Compliance with all federally mandated veterans employment and training programs

Outreach to programs operated under Titles II and III of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA)

Numbers of veterans successfully trained and placed in jobs yielding a minimum living wage as defined by local market conditions (particularly dislocated veterans)

Outreach to special disabled, catastrophically disabled, Vietnam theater, Vietnam-Era, and recently separated veterans

Establishment of training workshops in conjunction with and apart from the National Veterans Training Institute (NVTI)



Demonstrated success in implementing cooperative agreements with other agencies such as the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Department of Education, Office of Personnel Management (OPM), Small Business Administration (SBA), Department of Defense (DOD), and other relevant agencies. (Adopted.)

*No. 749 (Submitted by Commander-in-Chief)—Exclusive Appropriations Subcommittees for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the VFW petitions the Congress to establish separate appropriations subcommittees exclusive to the Department of Veterans Affairs in both the House and Senate. (Adopted.)

*No. 750 (Submitted by Commander-in-Chief)—Maintain Integrity of VA Rating Schedule*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Congress not to be influenced by this perennial issue which seeks to penalize veterans who are beset by medical conditions arising during or aggravated by military service. (Adopted.)

*No. 751 (Submitted by Commander-in-Chief)—VA Commission on Realignment and Major Mission Change*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the organization defers judgement at this time in supporting the role of this Commission; and

Be it further resolved, that if the Commission is established, the VFW will cooperate with the Commission, provide input into its deliberations which reflect the organization's views on veterans' health care needs, closely monitor its activities, and reserve the option of supporting or rejecting the final recommendations (or any part thereof) of the Commission. (Adopted.)

*No. 752 (Submitted by National Council Member James L. Allgood)—Provisions for Veterans Training Under JTPA (Job Training Partnership Act)*

Be it resolved, by the 90th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition the Congress of the United States to amend the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), (Public Law 97-300), to provide for veterans preference in all programs operated under JTPA as is now the case under employment and training programs operated under Chapter 41 and 42 of Title 38 of the United States Code. (Adopted as amended.)



## REPORTS OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

### Report of Commander-in-Chief

LARRY W. RIVERS

This, our 90th Convention, is of considerable historical importance. VFW members have cause to celebrate not only because of over nine decades of service, but because 1988-89 has been a year of significant accomplishments on the legislative front.

Along with our allies in Congress, who are well aware of veterans needs, we joined forces with other veterans organizations to fight further budget cuts and to win passage of legislation critical to veterans and their families.

Among the significant pieces of veterans legislation passed were the Department of Veterans Affairs Act, which elevated the VA to Cabinet-level status, and a judicial review law providing for a Court of Veterans Appeals. The new law also improved cost-of-living allowances, dependency compensation and health-care benefits. Another accomplishment was passage of the new 61 Bill Continuation Act.

Despite these major achievements, there still remain some major hurdles to overcome.

As Americas 21.2 million veterans rapidly age—the median age of a VFW veteran is now 61—the issue of health care becomes paramount. Tackling the problems of substandard or non-existent care will be a priority in future battles with the federal bureaucracy. At the same time, the specific medical needs of Vietnam veterans will also have to be met.

We ensured that all veterans were covered, including active military and retired military personnel, when legislation was considered. After all, veterans successfully preserved and protected the U.S. Constitution for the past 200 years in the name of democracy and freedom.

Besides veterans-specific bills, the VFW concerned itself with a host of foreign policy and defense issues. The Washington Office constantly monitored matters relevant to national security. Resolutions passed at Convention reflect these concerns, and the staff in the nations capital sees to it that the views of VFW members are known on everything from drug eradication to the Cold War.

It has been an exciting and rewarding experience serving as your Commander-in-Chief. I owe so many my deep and sincere gratitude. I shall never forget the opportunity you have given me to serve America and its veterans in working for improvements in veterans programs. Without this teamwork, we could never have accomplished our mission.

I was blessed with Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Wally Hogan and Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Jim Kimery as aids and confidants. Thank you both for the hard work and long hours that made this year so successful.

The support of the entire corps of officers and the National Council of Administration was much appreciated. The Kansas City staff and Washington Office personnel have given me their full backing sometimes did the near impossible by sending me out into the field in a timely manner.

Howard Vander Clute, Herb Irwin, Curt Jewell, Cooper Holt, and Benny Bachand, to name only a few, gave advice, assembled crucial material and saw that our other capable staff put the programs into action.

Thank you all so much for your support and dedication to the nation's veterans and America.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the Louisiana VFW Department Headquarters, VFW Service Officers and their staff. I must also thank the many Louisiana members who provided a homecoming that was first-class in every respect.

To the entire national membership, thank you all for your support and the hospitality you extended to my wife, Connie. Your generosity will always be remembered.

To Mona Longly, a wonderful National President, her officers and staff who made it so easy for me to work with the Auxiliaries, I say thank you.

None of what I accomplished would have been possible without the understanding of my wife, Connie. I shall always be grateful for her support and the sacrifices she made during my long periods away from home.

Finally, thank you for the opportunity to show veterans, their families and the entire nation that in the VFW . . . "WE REMEMBER."

## Report of Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

WALTER G. HOGAN

This past year has been eventful, to say the least.

As an officer in the VFW at various levels of responsibility, I have been honored to serve the dedicated people who make up the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Then came the 89th National Convention, and you elected me Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, making me a member of Commander-in-Chief Larry Rivers' team.

The Chief's leadership, which emphasized the role of America's veterans in a strong national defense as well as compassion in our treatment of and concern for veterans and their families, was directed toward fulfilling his pledge to remember.

I would like to express my gratitude to Commander-in-Chief Rivers for his advice, thoughtfulness and assistance as we worked during our term in office to assure 1988-89 was a banner year in the VFW's history.

Serving patriotic Americans who are members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and meeting so many of you in my travels across the country has proved to me once again the caliber of the organizations members. You have demonstrated loyalty to country by selfless service, and continue to do so by an unwavering willingness to do whatever it takes to make the VFW a success.

My tenure has been filled with an exciting array of events. In Washington, seeing firsthand the legislative process at work gave me new insight into the complexities of fighting for veterans bills. The opportunity to meet with key congressional leaders was also rewarding.

Frequent visits to Kansas City provided me with even greater appreciation for the work accomplished at National Headquarters on both the Adjutant General's and Quartermaster General's sides.

During trips to Central America and the Caribbean, I was fortunate enough to meet with U.S. ambassadors and foreign officials to discuss conditions in several different countries. We observed the struggle for democracy in Guatemala, Costa Rica and Honduras—nations vital to U.S. national security.

Visiting the people of Honduras made vivid the privation and hardship endured there. Our stop at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, showed me how precious freedom really is. As veterans, though, you hardly need to be reminded of this fact.

The annual Mid-Winter Conference in Washington was indeed an event that left a lasting impression. The enthusiasm at all the meetings, especially the General Session when President Bush addressed us, was overwhelming. Then there was the Congressional Dinner where Sen. Sam Nunn and the Voice of Democracy first-place winner spoke. These extra special events made my year complete.

For all of this, I am deeply grateful to the membership. By electing me Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief you have enabled me to share with you the hopes and dreams, the joys and even the disappointment that sometimes marked our path as we worked for a brighter future. I am especially indebted to the members of my home-state Department of Wisconsin.

My special thanks, for all his assistance, goes to Commander-in-Chief Rivers. Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Kimery has my gratitude for his immense help. Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr. has been tireless in providing aid as has Quartermaster Gen. Herbert W. Irwin. Executive Director Cooper T. Holt of the Washington Office has been equally generous.

Let's make 1989-90 another banner year.

## Report of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

JAMES L. KIMERY

It is hard to believe my year as Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is near completion. It has been a year of informative and interest-



ing travel in the United States and abroad. My tenure has broadened my knowledge and allowed me to make new friends as well as renew old friendships.

Fact-finding trips to Central America were an enlightening experience. Guerrilla warfare and terrorism continue to tear at the fabric of several of these strategic nations. We must be ever alert to the perils poised on our southern border. As mandated by VFW members, we will persevere in our support of countries struggling for democracy.

One of my most memorable visits was to the rural area of Honduras. There we witnessed civic action projects being performed by U.S. National Guard units near the hostile border with Communist Nicaragua. To see this only heightened our appreciation of America and all its freedoms.

At home on the legislative scene, we have been successful in our efforts to ensure veterans rights. The Veterans Administration was elevated to Cabinet status—now called the Department of Veterans Affairs a goal long sought by our organization. This was only one of several victories.

In traveling to many Departments, I was inspired by meeting comrades of such dedication. Their initiative and concern assures continued growth of the VFW and the quality of its programs. Because of this enthusiasm and tireless effort as well as concrete belief in our organization, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will prosper. We remain faithful to all the values the founding fathers of the VFW stood for—honor, confidence and loyalty to veterans and their families.

I sincerely thank my own Department of New Mexico for its encouragement and support. My year as Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief was made easier because of the leadership and counsel of Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers, and the guidance of Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter G. Hogan. I am especially grateful for the cooperation of Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr., Quartermaster Gen. Herbert W. Irwin, Executive Director of the Washington Office Cooper T. Holt and their excellent staffs.

As we gather in Las Vegas for our National Convention, let us dedicate ourselves to the successful pursuit of the many issues ahead and make the informed decisions required to increase awareness of our organization and its policies.

You are the organization, and it has been a honor to serve as your Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. Looking to the future, let our resolve be strengthened by a proud veteran heritage as "WE REMEMBER."

## Report of Adjutant General

HOWARD E. VANDER CLUTE, JR.

Welcome to Las Vegas! A similar welcome was accorded the delegates attending a National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for the first time 90 years ago. This year's Convention in the West marks an historic occasion for the VFW. A convention in Las Vegas is a first for the organization. In fact, not since 1936 has the VFW convened in the Rocky Mountain region—the birthplace of one of our predecessor associations.

We are here to promote fellowship, to chart the future course of legislative initiatives, to voice a concern for national security and common defense of our country, to review the voting records of members of Congress to determine whether they have favored VFW mandates, to celebrate the success of our ever-expanding membership and community service programs and to author, debate, amend and eventually adopt resolutions that will shape the philosophy of our organization for yet another year. Our 91st!

Communities throughout the United States continue to benefit from a wide variety of programs sponsored by the VFW and its Auxiliary. Concerns such as chemical dependence, missing children, home security, fire prevention, automobile-driver safety, hunter safety, bicycle safety, youth activities, Special Olympics, the Voice of Democracy program, patriotic observances and many other community-oriented activities are addressed by our organization and the Ladies Auxiliary. Your staff at National Headquarters is responsible for administering the programs that you, the members, implement in your hometowns and cities. We are charged with providing assistance and support to your efforts. It is you, however, the members, and you alone who are entitled to the credit for establishing a good image for our organization through your concern and all your good work in the community. We salute you for your everlasting dedication and for your accomplishments in the name of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States!

As Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers' administration draws to a close here in Las Vegas, we can take pride in the fact that his leadership has resulted in our 34th

consecutive year of membership growth. We must now turn our attention to the future, for it is here our real challenge lies. The veteran population is on the decline. Statistics now indicate that the "average" VFW member is age 64.

To address this concern properly, we engaged a professional consulting firm to conduct a demographic survey and a communications and public-image analysis to support our strategic planning. It confirmed our belief that it's essential to sustain membership growth to remain influential in Congress on issues that identity with our purpose: to perpetuate the memory and history of those who sacrificed to preserve the nation, to extend and protect veterans entitlements, to foster true patriotism, and to have a profound concern for our national security.

—Based on the results of the survey, it's clear that the VFW must:

—Develop new recruiting strategies and reach out on a more personal level, targeting Vietnam veterans as well as active-duty personnel.

—Emphasize health care programs that appeal to older veterans.

—Increase the organization's public visibility.

—Expand political lobbying efforts to protect veterans benefits which have sustained federal funding cuts to the point where the financial integrity of the entire Department of Veterans Affairs is in jeopardy.

Our continuing pledge to you, the members of our organization and delegates to this Convention, from our staff at National Headquarters and our Washington Office, many of whom are Vietnam veterans, is to provide responsive and responsible representation of the objectives of our organization. We owe our allegiance to you and all the decent things we stand for.

We certainly want to express our everlasting thanks to all of you who have "toiled in the vineyards" recruiting members, organizing new Posts, implementing community service programs and serving the best interests of our youth and our country. Our gratitude extends as well to Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers, whose forceful leadership has advanced our influence in the halls of Congress as well as the Oval Office.

And to Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter G. Hogan, and Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief James L. Kimery, whose loyal support and devotion to duty have enhanced their credentials as future leaders of this, the greatest of veterans organizations. Quartermaster Gen. Herbert W. Irwin and his staff and Washington Office Executive Director Cooper T. Holt and his staff have also accomplished much to advance the organization.

Our pledge will continue to be "WE REMEMBER," and as committed members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, we will embrace a new theme: "PROUD TO SERVE."

## Report of Quartermaster General

HERBERT W. IRWIN

At the beginning of this fiscal year, the Quartermaster General submitted a tentative balanced budget to the Commander-in-Chief and the National Budget and Finance Committee. After some revision by the Committee and by the National Council of Administration, the budget was approved on October 1, 1988. A summary follows:

Estimated income for the year ending August 31, 1989:

|                                                     |             |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Membership Dues.....                                | \$9,201,995 |
| VFW Magazine Receipts.....                          | 2,360,000   |
| Property Operation—Net.....                         | (750,000)   |
| Buddy Poppy Sales—Net Income.....                   | 250,000     |
| Supply Department—Net Income.....                   | 1,135,000   |
| Interest on Investments.....                        | 2,390,000   |
| Group Insurance Programs.....                       | 5,400,000   |
| Outside Addressing and Data Processing Rentals..... | 40,000      |
| Ladies Auxiliary Contribution.....                  | 140,000     |
| Miscellaneous.....                                  | 110,000     |
| Total estimated income.....                         | 20,276,995  |

|                                          |            |
|------------------------------------------|------------|
| Budgeted expenses for the year:          |            |
| National Headquarters Fund.....          | 9,228,005  |
| National Publication Fund.....           | 5,184,197  |
| Community and Veterans Service Fund..... | 5,858,794  |
| Total budgeted expenses.....             | 20,270,996 |
| Estimated surplus.....                   | 5,999      |

In addition, \$3,098,925 is budgeted as the portion of 1989 dues applicable to the 1989-90 fiscal year, and \$6,000,000 is budgeted for collection of restricted Life Membership fees. Pursuant to the National By-Laws, these funds are not available for operation of the 1988-89 fiscal year.

### AUDIT REPORT

The financial statements for the nine months ended May 31, 1989, and the Independent Auditors' Report relating thereto, are presented as a part of this report. Audited financial statements for the year ending August 31, 1989, will be mailed to the National Council of Administration and the Department Commanders as soon as they are available.

### Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

(Chartered by an Act of Congress)

### OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

### BALANCE SHEET, MAY 31, 1989

|                                                                                                                                                                                           | National<br>Headquarters<br>and National<br>Publication<br>Funds | Community<br>and Veterans<br>Service Fund<br>(Restricted) | Kansas City<br>Properties<br>Maintenance<br>and<br>Improvements<br>Fund<br>(Restricted) | Life<br>Membership<br>Fund<br>(Restricted) |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>Assets:</b>                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                  |                                                           |                                                                                         |                                            |
| Cash and temporary cash investments.....                                                                                                                                                  | \$7,978,778                                                      | \$1,006,638                                               | \$200,000                                                                               |                                            |
| Securities held and managed by Trustee—at cost (market value—<br>\$22,108,255 for National Headquarters and National Publications<br>Fund and \$88,605,463 for Life Membership Fund)..... | 22,093,131                                                       |                                                           |                                                                                         | 86,120,859                                 |
| Receivables.....                                                                                                                                                                          | 281,214                                                          | 735,873                                                   |                                                                                         |                                            |
| Accrued interest receivables.....                                                                                                                                                         | 525,077                                                          |                                                           |                                                                                         | 1,718,580                                  |
| Due from National Headquarters Fund.....                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                  | 6,001,681                                                 |                                                                                         | 483,364                                    |
| Inventories.....                                                                                                                                                                          | 1,086,309                                                        | 597,174                                                   |                                                                                         |                                            |
| Furniture, fixtures, and equipment (less accumulated depreciation—<br>\$1,859,302).....                                                                                                   | 1,415,875                                                        |                                                           |                                                                                         |                                            |
| National Headquarters property—Kansas City, Missouri:                                                                                                                                     |                                                                  |                                                           |                                                                                         |                                            |
| Land.....                                                                                                                                                                                 | 1,047,703                                                        |                                                           |                                                                                         |                                            |
| Buildings and improvements (less accumulated depreciation—<br>\$2,000,013).....                                                                                                           | 2,064,971                                                        |                                                           |                                                                                         |                                            |
| Other improvements—unamortized portion.....                                                                                                                                               | 1,782,612                                                        |                                                           |                                                                                         |                                            |
| National Memorial Building property—Washington, D.C.—Land, build-<br>ing, and improvements.....                                                                                           | 2,330,441                                                        |                                                           |                                                                                         |                                            |
| Prepaid and deferred charges.....                                                                                                                                                         | 1,012,149                                                        | 21,042                                                    |                                                                                         |                                            |
| Total.....                                                                                                                                                                                | 41,618,260                                                       | 8,362,408                                                 | 200,000                                                                                 | 88,322,803                                 |
| <b>Liabilities:</b>                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                  |                                                           |                                                                                         |                                            |
| Accounts payable.....                                                                                                                                                                     | 595,116                                                          | 4,870,552                                                 |                                                                                         |                                            |
| Accrued liabilities.....                                                                                                                                                                  | 67,735                                                           |                                                           |                                                                                         |                                            |
| Other liabilities.....                                                                                                                                                                    | 1,046,051                                                        | 66,728                                                    |                                                                                         |                                            |
| Due to Community and Veterans Service Fund.....                                                                                                                                           | 6,001,681                                                        |                                                           |                                                                                         |                                            |
| Due to Life Membership Fund.....                                                                                                                                                          | 483,364                                                          |                                                           |                                                                                         |                                            |
| Deferred credits:                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                  |                                                           |                                                                                         |                                            |
| National dues allocable to subsequent periods.....                                                                                                                                        | 5,380,076                                                        |                                                           |                                                                                         |                                            |
| Insurance programs.....                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                  | 786,735                                                   |                                                                                         |                                            |

|                     |              |            |           |         |            |
|---------------------|--------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|
|                     | Liabilities: |            |           |         |            |
| Fund balances ..... |              | 28,044,237 | 2,638,393 | 200,000 | 88,322,803 |
| Total .....         |              | 41,618,260 | 8,362,408 | 200,000 | 88,322,803 |

See the notes to financial statements.

### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

#### *Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States:*

We have audited the accompanying balance sheet of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States—Office of the Quartermaster General (the Organization) as of May 31, 1989, and the related summaries of income and changes in fund balances and of expenses for the nine months then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States—Office of the Quartermaster General at May 31, 1989, and the results of its operations and the changes in its fund balances for the nine months then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

DELOITTE, HASKINS & SELLS  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, JUNE 22, 1989

### SUMMARY OF INCOME AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED MAY 31, 1989

#### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND NATIONAL PUBLICATION FUNDS

|                                                                                       |             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Income:                                                                               |             |
| National dues .....                                                                   | \$6,846,508 |
| Contributions from VFW Ladies Auxiliary .....                                         | 140,000     |
| VFW Magazine advertising .....                                                        | 1,924,946   |
| Supply Department—net income .....                                                    | 878,448     |
| Property Operations—net loss .....                                                    | (556,629)   |
| Interest earned .....                                                                 | 2,119,237   |
| Other .....                                                                           | 250,872     |
| Total income .....                                                                    | 11,603,382  |
| Expenses (See summary) .....                                                          | 10,282,124  |
| Income before other deductions .....                                                  | 1,321,258   |
| Other deductions—Net charges applicable to prior periods .....                        | (26,851)    |
| Net income .....                                                                      | 1,294,407   |
| Fund balances, September 1, 1988 .....                                                | 26,749,830  |
| Fund balances, May 31, 1989 .....                                                     | 28,044,237  |
| Special Funds (Restricted)                                                            |             |
| Community and Veterans Service Fund:                                                  |             |
| Income:                                                                               |             |
| National Insurance Programs .....                                                     | 4,255,498   |
| Poppy Department Operations .....                                                     | 398,494     |
| Miscellaneous .....                                                                   | 2,752       |
| Total .....                                                                           | 4,656,744   |
| Expenses:                                                                             |             |
| Community and Veterans Service Programs (See summary) .....                           | 2,291,500   |
| Allocation of National Headquarters Fund and National Publication Fund expenses ..... | 2,463,490   |



## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND NATIONAL PUBLICATION FUNDS—Continued

|                                                                 |            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Total .....                                                     | 4,754,990  |
| Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance .....                       | (98,246)   |
| Fund Balance, September 1, 1988 .....                           | 2,736,639  |
| Fund Balance, May 31, 1989 .....                                | 2,638,393  |
| <b>Kansas City Properties Maintenance and Improvements Fund</b> |            |
| Fund Balance, September 1, 1988 and May 31, 1989 .....          | 200,000    |
| <b>Life Membership Fund:</b>                                    |            |
| Receipts:                                                       |            |
| Life membership fees .....                                      | 4,024,044  |
| Interest and dividends on investments .....                     | 6,123,656  |
| Total .....                                                     | 10,147,700 |
| Expenses:                                                       |            |
| 1989 annual dues of life members .....                          | 8,241,863  |
| Administrative expenses .....                                   | 165,720    |
| Trustee's charges .....                                         | 37,798     |
| Total .....                                                     | 8,445,381  |
| Increase in Fund Balance .....                                  | 1,702,319  |
| Fund Balance, September 1, 1988 .....                           | 86,620,484 |
| Fund Balance, May 31, 1989 .....                                | 88,322,803 |

See the notes to financial statements.

## SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED MAY 31, 1989

## National Headquarters and National Publication Funds

|                                                             |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>National Headquarters:</b>                               |           |
| Commander-in-Chief and Staff Officers .....                 | \$475,165 |
| National Council of Administration .....                    | 140,562   |
| National Convention Expense .....                           | 33,964    |
| Congressional Dinner .....                                  | 64,119    |
| Department Adjutant and Quartermasters Conference—K.C. .... | 57,755    |
| Department Commanders Conference—D.C. ....                  | 73,034    |
| Department Senior Vice-Commander's Conference—K.C. ....     | 49,096    |
| Department Convention Travel .....                          | 9,697     |
| Special Events .....                                        | 95,373    |
| Special Travel and Projects .....                           | 58,962    |
| Adjutant General's Department .....                         | 659,576   |
| Administrative Services—Adjutant General's Department ..... | 83,807    |
| Post Services .....                                         | 104,391   |
| National Convention Director .....                          | 54,776    |
| Public Relations and Press Service .....                    | 235,621   |
| Membership Program .....                                    | 1,861,815 |
| Post Development .....                                      | 340,291   |
| National Headquarters—General Services .....                | 298,668   |
| Washington, D.C. Office—Administrative Expense .....        | 299,949   |
| Public Relations—Washington, D.C. Office .....              | 89,445    |
| National Legislative Service .....                          | 225,942   |
| Quartermaster General's Department .....                    | 388,072   |
| Property Management—Kansas City .....                       | 66,258    |
| Purchasing and Life Membership .....                        | 51,281    |
| Maintenance Expense—National Headquarters .....             | 23,249    |
| General Expense—National Headquarters .....                 | 692,859   |
| Membership Reporting—Allocation of IBM Expenses .....       | 165,687   |
| Dues Receipts and Tax Forms .....                           | 121,290   |
| Contingent Expense .....                                    | 55,860    |
| Retirement Plan .....                                       | 153,498   |
| Retirement Administrative Expense .....                     | 86,170    |

## National Headquarters and National Publication Funds—Continued

|                                                                 |             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Employee Group Life and Disability Insurance.....               | 109,166     |
| Employee Medical Insurance .....                                | 473,532     |
| Other Expenses .....                                            | 452,609     |
| Expense Allocation—Community and Veterans Service Fund.....     | (1,966,213) |
| Subtotal .....                                                  | 6,185,326   |
| National Publication:                                           |             |
| Editorial.....                                                  | 160,013     |
| Circulation—Allocation of IBM Expenses .....                    | 165,687     |
| Advertising Promotion Expense .....                             | 8,100       |
| Publication Expense.....                                        | 4,260,275   |
| Expense Allocation to Community and Veterans Service Fund ..... | (497,277)   |
| Subtotal .....                                                  | 4,096,798   |
| Total .....                                                     | 10,282,124  |
| COMMUNITY AND VETERANS SERVICE FUND (RESTRICTED)                |             |
| Community Service Programs:                                     |             |
| Voice of Democracy and Youth Activities Program .....           | 325,730     |
| Americanism Program .....                                       | 141,734     |
| Community Activities Program .....                              | 101,700     |
| Safety Program .....                                            | 74,695      |
| National Security and Foreign Affairs.....                      | 153,816     |
| Subtotal .....                                                  | 797,675     |
| Veterans Service Programs:                                      |             |
| Veterans Service Committee.....                                 | 298         |
| Washington, D.C. Office.....                                    | 657,602     |
| Payroll Taxes.....                                              | 56,210      |
| Service Officers Guide.....                                     | 7,869       |
| Service Officer Training Program .....                          | 140,271     |
| V.A.V.S. Program .....                                          | 9,124       |
| Contingent Expenses .....                                       | 22,646      |
| Field Representatives.....                                      | 232,214     |
| Subsidies—Regional Offices.....                                 | 135,610     |
| National Service Officer Pilot Program.....                     | 165,018     |
| Veterans Civil Service Employment Program .....                 | 66,963      |
| Subtotal .....                                                  | 1,493,825   |
| Total .....                                                     | 2,291,500   |

See the notes to financial statements.

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. *Summary of Significant Accounting Policies*

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (the Organization) was incorporated in 1914 and chartered by Congress in 1936 for fraternal, patriotic, historical and educational purposes. The Organization is exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(19) of the IRS Code.

This Organization follows the practice of fund accounting. Under this procedure, transactions and balances for various purposes are classified into fund groupings that are in accordance with specific activities or objectives as follows:

a. The National Headquarters and National Publication Funds are resources of the Organization that provide the funds necessary to operate the Organization and publish the VFW Magazine.

b. The Community and Veterans Service Fund consists of net revenues of the National Insurance Programs and the Poppy Department and expenses of the Organization's various community and veteran service activities. Net revenues of the National Insurance Programs not expended or set aside for activities of the community and veteran service programs would be subject to Federal and state income taxes.

c. The Kansas City Properties Maintenance and Improvements Fund was established by the 55th National Convention and is to be used for maintenance, repair, preservation, and improvement of the Kansas City properties of the Organization.

d. The Life Membership Fund includes the investment income and unexpended fees received from the life members of the Organization. All life member fees and all income earned from the investment of such fees are to be used solely for the payment of the specified annual National Headquarters, Department, and Post dues of life members and the administrative expenses of the Fund.

Inventories are valued at average cost.

Property is valued at cost. The National Memorial Building is not depreciated; all other property is depreciated over the estimated useful life of the asset, using the straight-line method. The provision for depreciation and amortization for the nine months ended May 31, 1989 was \$527,399.

The major portion of the Organization's income is derived from annual dues paid by its members. Annual dues are collected on a calendar year basis and are reflected in income ratably over the year. Unearned portions of dues are deferred. The fiscal year of the Organization ends August 31.

## 2. Employee Benefit Plans

The Organization has a defined benefit pension plan covering substantially all of its employees who have completed certain minimum service requirements. The Organization's funding policy is to contribute at least the amount required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). Employees of several VFW State Departments and the Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW also participate in the plan.

During 1988, the Organization adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 87, which changed the Organization's method used to determine its periodic pension cost. Annual pension cost for the years 1989 and 1988 were \$153,498 and \$83,306, respectively.

Contributions of \$315,000 and \$300,452 have been made for the years 1989 and 1988 respectively. The following table sets forth the plans funded status and amounts recognized in the Organization's balance sheet at May 31, 1989 (in thousands):

Actuarial present value of benefit obligations:

|                                                                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Accumulated benefit obligation, including vested benefits of \$6,700 .....           | \$7,031 |
| Projected benefit obligation for service rendered to date .....                      | (9,042) |
| Plan assets at fair value at May 31, 1989 .....                                      | 11,022  |
| Plan assets in excess of projected benefit obligation .....                          | 1,980   |
| Unrecognized net gain from past experience .....                                     | (271)   |
| Unamortized prior service cost not yet recognized in pension cost .....              | 504     |
| Unrecognized net asset at June 1, 1987 being recognized over 15 years .....          | (1,832) |
| Prepaid pension cost included in other assets .....                                  | 382     |
| Net periodic pension cost for 1989 included the following components (in thousands): |         |
| Service cost—benefits earned during the period .....                                 | 394     |
| Interest cost on projected benefit obligation .....                                  | 596     |
| Actual return on plan assets .....                                                   | (1,172) |
| Net amortization and deferral .....                                                  | 335     |
| Net periodic pension cost .....                                                      | 153     |

The weighted-average discount rate and rate of increase in future compensation levels used in determining the actuarial present value of the projected benefit obligation were 7.5 percent and 6 percent, respectively. The expected long-term rate of return on assets was 7.5 percent.

The Organization also has a contributory savings plan (a 401-K plan) available to employees who have completed certain minimum service requirements. The Organization makes contributions to the plan based upon guidelines set forth in the plan. Total contributions made by the Organization for the nine months ended May 31, 1989 was \$170,684.

## 3. Political Action Committee (PAC)

Delegates to the 80th National Convention established the Veterans of Foreign Wars Political Action Committee. Contributions from Posts and Auxiliaries from inception to May 31, 1989, for payment of administrative expenses of the PAC totaled \$584,987. Unreimbursed expenditures for administrative expenses from inception to May 31, 1989, totaled \$649,226. The excess of expenditures over contributions received of \$64,239 is included in receivables of the National Headquarters Fund. Contributions from individuals are recorded in the records of the PAC, rather than the records of the Office of the Quartermaster General.

## 4. Contingencies

The National Organization has been named as a defendant in several legal actions. Management of the Organization, based in part on advice from the Organiza-

tion's legal counsel, believes that all such matters will be resolved with no material adverse effect on the financial statements.

### 89TH NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT

The following is a summary of receipts and disbursements pertaining to the VFW's 89th National Convention which was held in Chicago, Illinois:

|                                                      |             |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Cash Receipts:                                       |             |
| Registration.....                                    | \$92,927.50 |
| Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW.....                     | 26,800.00   |
| Chicago Convention Bureau.....                       | 35,000.00   |
| Awards Luncheon Ticket Sales.....                    | 26,280.00   |
| Distinguished Guest Banquet Ticket Sales.....        | 42,338.00   |
| Concessions and Miscellaneous.....                   | 10,260.09   |
| Total Receipts.....                                  | 233,605.59  |
| Disbursements:                                       |             |
| Audio-Visual.....                                    | 19,984.79   |
| Awards Luncheon.....                                 | 29,752.56   |
| Badges & Signs.....                                  | 12,478.89   |
| Convention Committee & Director's Expense.....       | 7,881.96    |
| Distinguished Guests & National Officer Expense..... | 35,548.83   |
| Distinguished Guest Banquet.....                     | 53,809.86   |
| Meeting Halls and Set-Up.....                        | 42,418.16   |
| On-Site Transportation.....                          | 8,907.54    |
| Parade and Contest Expense.....                      | 1,450.95    |
| Postage and Freight.....                             | 656.58      |
| Printing and Paper.....                              | 4,673.39    |
| Professional Services.....                           | 15,988.77   |
| Stationery & Office Supplies/Equipment Rental.....   | 9,174.40    |
| Miscellaneous.....                                   | 1,773.84    |
| Total Disbursements.....                             | 244,500.52  |
| Excess of Disbursements over Receipts.....           | 10,894.93   |

### SOURCE OF REVENUE

Budgeted income for the fiscal year ending August 31, 1989, is \$20,276,995 compared to \$19,674,311 for the previous year. The following schedule shows the proportionate composition of this year's budgeted income by department:

|                                  | Percentage of Total Revenue |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Dues.....                        | 45.4                        |
| Group Insurance Programs.....    | 26.6                        |
| VFW Magazine Receipts.....       | 11.6                        |
| Interest on Investments.....     | 11.8                        |
| Emblem & Supply Department.....  | 5.6                         |
| Property Operation—Net Loss..... | (3.7)                       |
| All other sources.....           | 2.7                         |
| Total.....                       | 100.0%                      |

### MEMBERSHIP AND NATIONAL DUES

The current budget is based on dues income of 2,060,000 members, which includes 619,711 Life Members. As of June 19, 1989, annual dues have been paid on 2,062,050 members which is 14,474 more than at the same date last year and the highest in the Organization's ninety year history. Dues are paid on a calendar year basis, therefore, one-third of the dues collected is set aside in a reserve applicable to the next fiscal year.



### VFW INSURANCE PROGRAMS

The National Organization first sponsored a group insurance program in 1962. Over the years we have added a variety of programs, and at the present time we have nine. The most recent additions are an Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance program and a Medicare Supplement Economy plan. Details of these and other insurance programs appear elsewhere in this official program.

National Headquarters receives an administrative expense reimbursement for handling the billing, collection of premiums, policy issuance, etc. For the current nine months ended May 31, 1989, the net income from this source is \$4,255,498 compared to \$3,810,461 for the same period last year. In addition, the administrative expense reimbursement from the National Life Insurance program, which is not included in the above figures, is distributed to Departments. Since 1971, VFW Departments have received approximately \$2,538,000 for the assistance they give us in the advertising and promotion of that program.

Beginning in June of 1983, a new insurance underwriter increased our reimbursement for administration of the programs and as a result of this increase, coupled with a growing expertise in mass marketing, our annual net income from the insurance programs has more than tripled. In 1986, the underwriting was transferred to the North American Life & Casualty Insurance Company and its subsidiary, Preferred Life Insurance of New York. This new company receives the highest (A+) rating possible from the A.M. Best Company, an independent insurance industry analyst.

The reception of the accidental death program has been very good because the first \$2,500 of coverage is at no cost to the member and requires only that the member send in a beneficiary card which has been provided in the dues notice mailing. This program has been available addition to our membership program as well. Each of the other programs has been well received over the years, and they all offer a valuable incentive for belonging to the Organization.

### MEMBER BENEFIT PROGRAMS

We have attempted to design a member benefit program for our members, and all of these programs—including the insurance programs previously mentioned, are optional with the member and cost him nothing unless he elects to use them. In the spring of 1982, we announced a prescription drug program. Some of our members who do not otherwise have access to a discount source for prescription drugs have found this program very useful. In 1983 we announced a travel service (hotels, motels, rental cars, etc.) and a discount merchandise purchase service.

Details of our insurance programs, and these additional member benefits, have been included in a "Member Benefit Handbook" which has been mailed to all members during the period June-July 1989.

Again, our insurance and other member benefit programs are available to our members at what we believe is a fair cost, but cost the member nothing unless, at his option, he wishes to utilize them.

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

From the inception of the program in 1950 through May 31, 1988, members purchasing a life membership total 737,275. During the same period, 125,768 became inactive due to death, etc., leaving 611,507 names on the active list.

During this past year, 48,019 members paid \$5,998,633 to become Life Members.

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND—May 31, 1980

|                                                                                |              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Fees Collected Jan 1, 1951 to May 31, 1989 .....                               | \$83,964,881 |
| Total dues paid Post, Department and National .....                            | 61,340,612   |
| Add—Administrative Expenses since 1-1-51 .....                                 | 2,396,780    |
| Subtotal .....                                                                 | 63,737,392   |
| Income from Investments (Incl. gains and losses from sale of securities) ..... | 68,095,314   |
| Excess of Income over Disbursements .....                                      | 4,357,922    |
| Reserve for Future Dues Payments and Expenses .....                            | 88,322,803   |

|                                             |            |
|---------------------------------------------|------------|
| Total Investments in Trust Funds.....       | 86,120,859 |
| Temporary investments and Cash on Hand..... | 2,201,944  |
| Total Investments and Cash.....             | 88,322,803 |

Note: The estimated Dues Payment due 8-31-89 is \$9,378,270.

Life Member fees have been set actuarially so that the fees life member applicants pay, plus the investment income from it will equal the dues for the life of the Life Member. Since the Life Member Program began, we have had three separate plans, Plan A, B, & C. Each Plan had a different fee schedule with a different dues payout. The sole purpose in changing Plans was to bring the dues payout more in line with the dues structure for annual members.

Because investment income in the last several years has substantially exceeded that which was originally anticipated when the fees were set, the Board of Trustees has been able to increase the Life Member dues payout four of the last seven years.

For the 1990 dues payment, the Board of Trustees is pleased to announce a \$1.50 increase to \$15.00 on each Life Member. This increase will be effective with the 1990 dues payment issued in September of this year.

After the 1990 dues payment, more than \$15 million over the amount required by the By-Laws will have been paid to Posts, Departments and the National Headquarters since 1982. It should be remembered, however, that the Board has the right to reduce the payout to that originally set in the By-Laws should it become necessary because of financial and economic conditions.

All levels of the Veterans of Foreign Wars have benefitted from the well-managed and financially sound Life Membership Trust Fund. Not only has the total number of Life Members increased substantially over the past few years, but the financial condition of National Headquarters and each Post and Department has been helped by the increased payouts.

#### VFW EMBLEM AND SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

|                                      | Nine months ending May 31 — |             |             |             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                      | 1989                        | 1988        | 1987        | 1986        |
| Net Sales.....                       | \$3,779,161                 | \$3,557,523 | \$3,212,706 | \$3,050,545 |
| Cost of Sales.....                   | 2,012,236                   | 1,930,989   | 1,755,978   | 1,719,146   |
| Gross Profit.....                    | 1,766,925                   | 1,626,534   | 1,456,728   | 1,331,399   |
| Expenses:                            |                             |             |             |             |
| Salaries.....                        | 256,958                     | 229,277     | 227,313     | 212,480     |
| Advertising.....                     | 57,060                      | 26,223      | 33,296      | 20,583      |
| Catalog Expense.....                 | 47,385                      | 48,848      | 41,070      | 37,611      |
| Electricity.....                     | 11,047                      | 11,364      | 10,895      | 9,700       |
| Postage.....                         | 208,254                     | 194,372     | 161,568     | 156,879     |
| Shipping Supplies.....               | 16,637                      | 21,662      | 11,502      | 13,167      |
| Rent.....                            | 61,500                      | 61,500      | 61,500      | 54,000      |
| Data Processing Allocation.....      | 74,852                      | 46,913      | 55,841      | 53,307      |
| Other.....                           | 57,179                      | 45,463      | 41,879      | 40,613      |
| Total Expenses.....                  | 790,872                     | 685,622     | 644,864     | 598,340     |
| Net Income Before Commissions.....   | 976,053                     | 940,912     | 811,864     | 733,059     |
| Less Commissions to Departments..... | 97,605                      | 94,091      | 81,186      | 73,306      |
| Net Income.....                      | 878,448                     | 846,821     | 730,678     | 659,753     |

Section 715 of the By-Laws states that 10% of the net profits of supplies sold within a Department shall be paid to such Department within thirty days following the close of each fiscal period. The Quartermaster General will be mailing these payments to the Departments in September. The 1990 Supply Catalog will be mailed to Posts and Departments in August.

Net income from the Emblem & Supply Department and Group Insurance Programs, and interest income earned from investments, total nearly nine million dollars annually and help substantially in meeting the monetary needs of all VFW programs. Still, the bulk of our income is from membership dues, so we are like a retired person on a fixed income. Expenses for printing, postage, travel and our many

other activities continue to rise. VFW magazine expenses, alone, represent over a quarter of our total outlay. Many of the costs of printing the magazine, including postage and paper, are not within our own control. While inflation has somewhat abated, it has had a tremendous effect on us over the years.

Our financial statements as of May 31, 1989, indicate that we are having another good year. The August 31 surplus cannot be predicted, but is generally more than that of May 31 of each year. One of the biggest uncertainties is the cost of the National Convention, which will be enormous by any standard. We have had a surplus every year since 1962, and we believe that this year will be no exception.

I would like to express my thanks to the National Officers, the members of the National Council of Administration and the Budget & Finance Committee who have contributed substantially to making 1988-89 a very fine year.

I hope that this report gives you some indication of the financial stability of your VFW National Headquarters. A solid financial base is essential to support our VFW goals which are common to units at all levels of our Organization. While there are many other things to be done, I urge you to pay attention to the finances of your particular unit and leave it in better shape than when you came on board.

### **Report of Judge Advocate General**

VICTOR B. GRANDY

I have enjoyed working with the Commander-in-Chief, other National officers, the Council of Administration and the National Headquarters staff for the past year. I am impressed with the caliber of the staff in the National organization, and happy to report to my comrades that nowhere is there a more dedicated group of people truly interested in veterans welfare.

Though saddened by Cooper T. Holt's retirement, I am optimistic that Larry Rivers will demonstrate the same professionalism for which the Washington Office is noted.

The Appeals Committee met several times and reviewed matters for the Council of Administration. I've had the good fortune to work with committee members Patrick L. Jordan, Earnest G. Mudd, Thomas Morgan, Edwin H. Shuman and Theodore R. Eaton. These professionals have made the chairman's job much easier. The committee received valuable assistance and cooperation from Adjutant General Howard E. Vander Clute and Assistant Adjutant General Curt Jewell. It has been a pleasure to work with these fine men.

VFW's future looks bright. Walter G. Hogan and James L. Kimery will provide outstanding leadership during the next two years. Members can look forward to some beneficial actions during their term in office.

Quartermaster General Herbert W. Irwin is also doing a fine job for the organization. His hard work has paid off many times over. Herb's expertise in financial management and investment has benefited the VFW greatly.

Attendance at two membership round-ups has allowed me to observe in action Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Jim Kimery and Membership Director Larry L. LeFebvre. Both men are an inspiration, eliciting favorable comments throughout the membership. No wonder the VFW continues to grow.

The new "Procedural Guide for Disciplinary Actions" is an excellent piece of work. It is a vast improvement over past Court Martial Proceedings. Many of the appellant proceedings will be eliminated. Every Post should have at least one copy in its permanent records. Department Judge Advocates and should see to it that copies are made available to the membership.

To my comrades in the Western Conference and the Department of Colorado, whose idea it was that I become Judge Advocate General, I express my gratitude for your backing and support. I am grateful indeed for the opportunity to serve this dedicated organization.

### **Report of Surgeon General**

RAYMOND W. SCHLUETER, D.O.

Serving the VFW as a National officer is a unique experience which has allowed me both to serve and develop a broader understanding of the organization's goals and accomplishments. I have continued to grow as a result of the confidence placed in me to serve a second term in office. Physicians such as myself, who recognize VFW's many veterans services bring a professional perspective as a result of special

training, experience and insight into health care issues. Though private practice and service, I have nevertheless conducted all the usually expected duties. These duties include attendance at all scheduled National Council meetings, hospital visits and attendance at all functions requested by the National office and Commander-in-Chief Larry Rivers.

Commander-in-Chief Rivers' talents were recognized several years ago when he served as Chief of Staff. My association with him in both capacities has been most enlightening. Larry Rivers will make a fine replacement for Cooper Holt in the Washington Office.

My special thanks to all the National staff in Kansas City for providing invaluable assistance. I am especially indebted to Adjutant General Howard Vander Clute, Jr.

In addition to health care issues such as blood pressure checks, restricted salt intake, and restricting the use of tobacco, the issue of dietary control is important. Regular exercise, such as daily walking and reduced alcohol consumption, is highly recommended. Following these recommendations will substantially limit the need for drugs and medical services.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as National Surgeon General.

## Report of National Chaplain

REVEREND JOHN W. HOSMER

East Hampton is a small town in the middle of Connecticut. Besides being a beautiful place to live, it also has an active VFW Post. Because its members were so dedicated to community service, especially service to hospitalized veterans and to youth activities, I joined Post 5095 over 30 years ago. With their encouragement and support, I became Post Chaplain, District Chaplain, State Chaplain, Eastern States Chaplain and, last August, National Chaplain. But it all began in a VFW Post in a small town. Another man who joined Post 5095 about the same time I did is William O'Neill. He is now governor of Connecticut.

During my year as National Chaplain, I participated in National Council meetings in Chicago, Kansas City, and Washington, D.C. I've also taken part in Eastern States Conference meetings in Allentown, Pa., and Portland, Me.

At the Washington Conference, March 3-7, it was a thrill to hear President George Bush speak in support of goals and purposes. I was impressed by Commander-in-Chief Rivers' presentation of our concerns, especially those relating to medical needs of older veterans, to the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees.

At all times, I have been impressed by the dedication and competence of those who are leading the VFW. Whether elected or employed, all give freely of their talents enabling the VFW to serve America by helping its veterans and young people. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with them.

Because the VFW has a strong dedication to God and country, I felt that including a brief message in our National magazine each month would be appropriate. Last October, the first "Chaplain's Corner" appeared. I never imagined I'd receive so much fan mail for my efforts, but I am pleased it has become a popular addition.

The Commander-in-Chiefs seven-day Caribbean cruise was an unforgettable experience for me and my wife, June. We were thrilled with the beauty of the islands and the service on the ship. But even more important was the opportunity to become acquainted with the other National officers, the 31 state commanders who met their membership goals, Past National Commanders and their wives. Since we need to work together for the good of the organization, these personal contacts are invaluable.

I've just returned from the 27th Annual National Chaplain's Day festivities in Kenosha, Wis. My predecessor had told me that this would be an incredible weekend, one I'd never forget. It was true. Kenosha Post 1865 Chairman Kloet and many VIP's made the Memorial Day weekend outstanding. Saturday morning Post 1865 chartered a fishing boat and set sail on Lake Michigan. Within three hours everyone had caught their limit of big Coho salmon.

In the evening, I was guest of honor and speaker at a banquet that packed the Post home. Among the gifts presented was a large, beautifully drawn portrait of myself by George Pollard, an outstanding artist who also belongs to the Post. Sunday, we met for worship, and I gave the message at Memorial United Methodist Church. I took part in the Memorial Service and a Post Flag service. It was difficult to say goodbye to the Kloet's and to good friends in Kenosha.

It has been an honor to serve as your National Chaplain with our dedicated Commander-in-Chief, Larry Rivers. "WE REMEMBER."



## Report of Chief of Staff

WILLIAM M. PROCTER

Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers, who has led us in another outstanding year in fulfilling our goals on all levels of VFW activity, appointed me Chief of Staff at the conclusion of the 89th National Convention in Chicago. I have worked hard to justify the confidence placed in me when appointed to this position. The Post Development Program, under the directorship of Joe Ross, chartered 265 new Posts between July 1, 1988 and May 20, 1989. This is not as many Posts as have been chartered in the past, but the total new and reinstated membership is up considerably because of the N/R factor added to the membership program.

In the past year I have had the honor to participate in numerous VFW activities, meetings and conferences. At each, I have been overwhelmed by the courtesy and generosity shown to me by the membership and its Ladies Auxiliary. To each of you I express my heartfelt thanks! I would also like to thank each and every member of the Kansas City staff and the Washington Office for their assistance during the year.

Most of all I must thank Commander-in-Chief Larry Rivers for appointing me to this office and enabling me to serve the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Wally Hogan, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Jim Kimery, Adjutant General Howard Vander Clute, Jr., Quartermaster General Herbert Irwin and Executive Director of the Washington Office Cooper T. Holt are to be congratulated for the professionalism they contribute to our organization each day.

I wish to thank each of you in the VFW for making this one of the greatest years in the history of our organization and demonstrating that "We Remember."

## Report of Inspector General

KENNETH L. HARTMAN

Since the 1988 National Convention in Chicago, it has been my honor and privilege to serve as VFW Inspector General. Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers and staff have provided excellent leadership.

Assistance and guidance provided by the National staff was exceptional. Their leadership and initiative assure the VFW's continued success. My grateful thanks to the National officers and staff in Kansas City and Washington, D.C. The organization is fortunate to have such a dedicated group of comrades and employees.

The opportunity to represent the VFW has been most gratifying. The many courtesies and warm hospitality extended throughout the year as well as friendships developed will always be cherished.

Now to the matter of Post inspections. Post inspections indicate if assistance is needed to avoid potential problems. Dedicated District and Department inspectors who are responsible for the inspections have made substantial strides in this regard.

Working with Commander-in-Chief Rivers has been a memorable experience for which I am grateful. Such inspirational leadership has contributed to the VFW's consistent growth.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the "We Remember" team.

## Report of the Washington Office

COOPER T. HOLT, *Executive Director*

Lately, it seems everything I do is the "last time" I will do whatever it is I am doing—speaking, writing articles or attending meetings. In this case, it is my last article for the National Convention program.

Of course, I know this is because I have announced my retirement as your executive director, effective Sept. 1, 1989, after 26 short years in office. I certainly have enjoyed my work: working for you, with you and in your behalf. No one has ever enjoyed his work any more than Cooper T.—challenges all the way, every day.

I have enjoyed working with many fine individuals in and out of the VFW—in and out of government. On the other hand, there are a few individuals I could have bypassed along the way without any problems, but I suppose that is life in all its endeavors.

I have many, many folks to thank for whatever I might have achieved thus far with my life, but before naming these individuals and groups, I must say my trust

in God has sustained me at all times. He said in the Holy Book, "ask and it shall be given." Believe me I have asked many times and when deserved, it has been given.

My thanks go to my mother; my brothers and my sister; my loyal wife, Betty, a constant companion; my daughter Cynthia; her husband Butch; and the apple of my eye, my grandson, also named Cooper T.

Thanks to the people I worked with in the Post Office when and, where my VFW career started; my friends in the city hall of Chattanooga, Tenn., my place of employment after serving as your Commander-in-Chief.

Thanks also, to all our Past Commanders-in-Chief—all dedicated to our nation and its veterans—but especially to Joe Lombardo who first appointed me as your executive director at our National Convention in Seattle, Wash. I also want to thank Byron Gentry, one of our truly great Commanders-in-Chief whom I feel had much to do with my appointment, an act I shall forever remember and be grateful for.

I wish to thank members of the various Councils of Administration and National officers of our Ladies Auxiliary—also, all the state commanders and their staffs; and of course, the grass-roots members who made it all possible for me, and what is more important, for our VFW.

Thanks to my home Post 1289 in Chattanooga; my home state of Tennessee; and my magnificent Southern Conference.

Thanks must go also to a wonderful and dedicated and loyal staff in your Washington Office—to my friends in our Kansas City Headquarters.

Thanks to so many fine individuals in Congress. I cannot possibly name all of them, for it would take this entire program book to do so. I will, however, mention the chairman of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees who have served since I became your executive director: in the House, Reps. Olin E. (Tiger) Teague, William Jennings Bryan Dorn, Ray Roberts and Sonny Montgomery. In the Senate: Sens. Vance Hartke, Alan Cranston, Alan Simpson and Frank Murkowski. An elite group and, again, some better than others.

A vote of thanks goes to former VA administrators I served with, including John Gleason, William J. Driver, Donald Johnson, Richard L. Roudebush, Max Cleland, Robert P. Nimmo, Harry Walters and Thomas K. Turnage, and the first secretary of veterans affairs, Edward J. Derwinski. There were a couple we could have done without.

How can I forget to thank the Presidents I have had the pleasure of working with on many important issues affecting our security and our veteran programs. We won some and lost some, but we were always caught trying: John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan and presently, George Bush. To be kind, I will say, all were great in their own way.

Last, but not least, my sincere thanks to my excellent secretary, Nancy Pomeroy, a dedicated and loyal lady. Nancy put up with me for every day I served as your executive director—26 years times 365 days equals 9,490 days. I know she feels this experience has seemed, as Byron said, "like an image of eternity."

I must assure each of you that serving as your executive director is somewhat like riding in a large ship in the middle of the ocean. You don't realize how far you've gone, how much progress you've made toward your desired goal, until you look back and see where you started and how far you've traveled. My friends, I know how far I have traveled and I know who is responsible, and that's why I owe so many individuals my sincere thanks.

Now I would like to reflect briefly on the VFW's numerous trials and tribulations as well as victories and accomplishments through the years. There certainly hasn't been any shortage of any of these during my tenure in the nation's capital.

My arrival in Washington, D.C., coincided with young President Kennedy's Administration. We both had our heads in the clouds with America's first space orbit and our feet in the mud of the rice paddies in Vietnam. It was this conflict that took a large part of my first 16 years of effort as the war raged through four different administrations. The VFW's accomplishments involved legislative support for defeating Communism in Asia. We led the fight to account for all of America's POWs and MIAs as a non-negotiable matter of honor. Early we recognized the medical problems associated with exposure to the defoliant Agent Orange while continuing to seek recognition for service connected disabilities as a result of radiation exposure during or following WW II. America's domestic policies during these same years ran the gamut from the New Frontier to the War on Poverty to civil rights and Watergate. Your VFW consistently worked long and hard to ensure that the Veterans Administration was adequately funded to meet all its requirements. In those years, we placed our efforts on recognizing the emotional problems associated with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), obtaining needed new money to improve

the quality of prosthetic devices and to ensure that maximum assistance was rendered to families at national cemeteries throughout the country.

Since 1977, again a date that coincides with another new and young President Jimmy Carter—we have seen a blossoming of international agreements and treaties of all kinds. They range in scope from nuclear arms limitations to the infamous Panama Canal treaties. During this last 10 years, VFW national security and foreign affairs actions continuously hammered on the theme that America must maintain a strong defense. This ranged from our support of full funding of the MX missile to supporting strategic defense research and development. The VFW also initiated a historical first by taking a clear, strong position to combat international terrorism anywhere America's interests were challenged.

The most important domestic issue during this same decade was the economy. If you recall, we ran through the peaks and valleys of "stagflation" to inflation to supply side economics under President Reagan. This latter approach resulted in the largest budget and tax cut in U.S. history since FDR's New Deal. However, with this good news came soaring deficits and the reality that the federal government sharply reduced its national spending, to include veterans' programs. The VFW merely rolled up its collective sleeves and once more went to work. We spearheaded action to establish the Department of Veterans Affairs with the significant advantage of now having a secretary of veterans affairs sitting as a full member of each and every future President's Cabinet. We also helped pass legislation to finally allow veterans to appeal their VA compensation, education and pension claims through an independent judicial review system. And, as an aside, we finally did away with a post-Civil War law that limited the fee a veteran may pay to an attorney who would present a VA claim on behalf of the veteran. We have been instrumental in supporting and bringing about the New GI Bill and have ensured that neither veterans who are recipients of VA compensation nor military retirees are singled out for anything less than a full Cost-of-Living Adjustment, despite the political rhetoric surrounding the Gramm-Rudman deficit reduction goals.

I firmly believe America will remain a world power throughout the 21st century. I also believe that Americans will remain a resourceful, compassionate people. We will be a stabilizing military, political, economic and moral force in a turbulent world that should be less prone to war than in the past. However, I am wise enough to know that America will be challenged from time to time by various countries, coalitions or ideologies which wish us harm. Accordingly, my concerns are simply, and as always, straightforward. First, America must continue to stand firm for freedom by maintaining a military posture of clear U.S. primacy. Second, America must continue to recognize a moral obligation to those citizens called veterans. They were created as a result of some personal sacrifice for the greater good of the nation.

And now, my final observation for the day: I caution the veteran community not to become either complacent or overly dependent on government support. I suggest we continue to seek only as much assistance as is necessary. Veterans must stand united and strong to retain what they have earned while continuing to make their very special contribution to the national good.

In closing this article, my sincere thanks to Commander-in-Chief Larry Rivers, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Wally Hogan, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Jim Kimery, Quartermaster Gen. Herb Irwin and Adjutant Gen. Howard Vander Clute for their many courtesies and for their cooperation.

## Report of Assistant Adjutant General, Administration

CURTIS M. JEWELL

The Assistant Adjutant General, Administration, performs duties assigned by the Adjutant General. Duties include:

- Compiling, publishing and maintaining records and proceedings of the National Convention and Council of Administration meetings;
- Preparing and issuing officer and delegate credentials for the National Convention;
- Composing and issuing national awards, citations and letters of appreciation or commendation for the Commander-in-Chief and Adjutant General;
- Monitoring emblematic matters and issuing cease and desist orders of unauthorized use of the VFW name and emblem for the Commander-in-Chief and Adjutant General;
- Filing statutory Congressional and state reports;
- Disseminating summaries of the National Convention and Council of Administration meetings;

- Maintaining a current list and accreditation of the National organization's agents of record in each state as required by the Congressional Charter;
- Reviewing and responding to assigned disciplinary hearings, appeals and rights of members for the Commander-in-Chief;
- Maintaining historical and legal files;
- Certifying requests for surplus military equipment;
- Maintaining the calendar of VFW events and meetings; and
- Resolving and/or referring complaints and problems concerning subordinate units to the proper authority as directed by the Commander-in-Chief and Adjutant General.

Many of the problems and questions that arise from the administrative operation of VFW units could be avoided if business-like procedures were adopted by subordinate units. Since most Posts conduct various business ventures to sustain operations, adoption of recognized business practices help ensure success.

Control of business ventures—including management, accounting and audit of receipts and expenditures, financial statements, bonding of employees and others responsible for the receipt and disbursement of funds, licenses, taxes, etc. is an important facet of operating a successful business.

Records reveal that only 77% of Post Quartermasters are bonded, as required by National By-Laws. Less than 30% of VFW Posts have by-laws that govern Post procedures and operations. Only 63% of VFW Posts are incorporated, which protects individual members.

As statutory requirements of doing business become more complex, the need for maintaining records and up-to-date by-laws is increasingly urgent. Post by-laws reduce internal operational problems, and articles of incorporation protect individual members from the Post's legal obligations. Posts should have by-laws as well as articles of incorporation for protection. Sample formats of suggested by-laws and articles of incorporation are available from National Headquarters.

To avoid conflict with either of these instruments, current copies of the latest Department and National By-Laws should be on hand at the Post. National Headquarters offers a suggested guide for the operation, management and control of Post can-tees or clubs. It addresses VFW concerns and requirements for efficient operation of Post clubs.

While improving business operation is important, we must not forget the reason the VFW was organized 90 years ago. That purpose was, and remains, to assist needy veterans and their dependents.

Communities throughout the nation benefit from the many programs sponsored by the and its Ladies Auxiliary. These programs are made possible by the contribution of countless volunteer hours and financial support. Consequently, there is a critical need for efficient conduct of business and financial operations—the best means of ensuring the VFW's success.

**We Remember** the sacrifices others have made. As dedicated VFW members, we are **Proud to Serve** the nation, the communities in which we live and those less fortunate than ourselves as we build **A Better America**.

## Report of Assistant Adjutant General, Programs

W. BENNY BACHAND

This convention marks the completion of my first year as Assistant Adjutant General with overseer responsibility of VFW Programs and Membership. It has been a learning experience that has given me greater insight into the contributions VFW programs make towards membership success and towards expanding the many programs and services of the VFW that benefit hundreds of thousands of veterans, their families and the communities in which we live.

By recording the VFW's 34th consecutive year of membership growth, we have once again demonstrated that eligible veterans will join the ranks of America's oldest major veterans organization if someone will only ASK them.

The N/R factor had a dramatic effect on the recruitment of new and reinstated members that resulted in reversing an eight-year downward slide.

Additionally, our Departments responded by chartering more than 265 new VFW Posts that swelled the ranks to a new all-time membership high.

This continuing effort to expand membership has had a positive effect on the VFW image. As we continue to grow, we get more members involved in the many community service programs offered and sponsored by the VFW. This in turn increases the VFW's general public image.



The fact that the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary continues to grow also reflects the prestige the organization commands. Donations of more than 100 million hours and \$90 million to community service projects during the past year by VFW and Auxiliary units attest to this fact. More than 950,000 people have availed themselves of the VFW Drive-to-Survive educational training program since its inception in 1973. Since 1963, 30 million bicycles have been reflectorized with Lite-A-Bike tape as a safeguard against bicycle accidents.

Sponsorship of youth sports continues to remain strong, as does VFW sponsorship of more than 1,100 Scout troops, many Sons of the VFW Units and Boys Clubs, and Junior and Special Olympic programs throughout the country.

The Voice of Democracy scriptwriting contest continues to attract more than 300,000 high school students each year. With the increase of national scholarship awards to \$50,000, more effort should be made to attract participation in this program.

More than 1,200 VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members contribute 1.5 million hours of volunteer service to the Veterans Administration Volunteer Service (VAVS) program every year. In addition to this service, VFW, Ladies Auxiliary, Military Order of the Cootie and members of its Ladies Auxiliary donate countless hours entertaining and visiting veterans in local hospitals throughout the country.

VFW has a history of "people helping people." But, what does the future hold in store for the Veterans of Foreign Wars? First of all, our objective should be to increase the working force required to carry on the programs and work so vital to the well-being of the organization. Volunteerism, as we know it, has been a way of life in America—especially at the VFW. We must guard against any decrease in the participation level of the membership that will affect the organization's ability to serve America's citizens.

As our ranks become older, we must establish new programs that have the dual purpose of helping senior veterans while increasing volunteerism within this group of active veterans.

Overall, we must look for new ideas and ways to expand VFW programs into communities that have not benefited from our work in the past. We must work together to achieve new and higher goals.

Work of this nature cannot be accomplished without leadership. Pride in our accomplishments of the past should inspire current and future leaders to greater efforts as we approach a new year in membership and other programs.

Pride alone, however, cannot carry the Veterans of Foreign Wars to new and greater achievements in the year ahead. Sound planning, active participation, new programs and the desire and commitment that VFW members and its Ladies Auxiliary are noted for will provide the tools to surpass past accomplishments.

We are dedicated to helping others, and collectively, there is little that cannot be accomplished if we set our minds to it.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars will continue to set new records of achievement in 1989-90 because we are "PROUD TO SERVE."

## Report of Administrative Services

JOHN J. SENK, JR., *Director*

The volume and scope of duties and responsibilities assigned to Administrative Services are ever-expanding and changing. Duties include assisting the Adjutant General and Assistant Adjutant General of Administration in the VFW's day-to-day administrative functions.

Budgets and reports of each Department's financial operation are reviewed and monitored for compliance with National By-Laws.

One of a Post's most important historical documents is its official charter. Once a Post is chartered, it's the responsibility of Administrative Services to correspond with the newly formed Post to ensure the official charter is lettered correctly and issued as quickly as possible. Complete and accurate records are maintained on microfilm to facilitate preparation of a replacement charter if the original is lost or destroyed.

Upon receipt of a written request for a Life Membership Perpetual Charter, the membership records are reviewed to verify the Post has the requisite 25 life members. Once membership figures are verified, a charter number is assigned and the Life Membership Perpetual Charter is prepared and mailed to Department Headquarters for presentation.

Administrative Services is assigned the responsibility of processing requests, preparing applicable orders and maintaining permanent files for the Adjutant General

on all suspension and cancellation actions. It is Administrative Services' duty to keep the Adjutant General notified of any and all corrective action taken during periods of suspension so the Post can be returned to good working order.

Doing business in today's society is becoming more complex, and individual Post members must be protected from litigation. National Headquarters strongly urges every Post to incorporate in compliance with Section 708 of the National By-Laws as well as respective state laws.

The Director of Administrative Services reviews and processes Articles of Incorporation for the Commander-in-Chiefs consideration. After Articles of Incorporation are reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief, Posts must file approved incorporation papers with the proper state agency.

Many Posts now understand the need to adopt By-Laws and Club Rules in order to properly handle individual problems. National By-Laws call for the Commander-in-Chief to approve all By-Laws or amendments to existing By-Laws before they become effective. The Director of Administrative Services reviews Post By-Laws and Club Rules to insure there is no conflict with National By-Laws. He also ensures that documents are in proper form for the Commander-in-Chiefs review.

VFW Travel Services Department is administered by the Director of Administrative Services. Establishment of this department has guaranteed the lowest possible airfares for business or personal travel. All members can use the service by calling a toll-free number listed in the Member Benefit Handbook. The prime goal of Administrative Services and its entire staff is service to the membership. As one of the VFW's founding objectives states: "We Remember."

## Report of Americanism

JOHN J. HARROW, *Chairman*

RAYMOND N. PRICE, *Director*

Strange and apparently wonderful things are happening in the world today. Much of the Communist orbit is experimenting with some form or another of democracy. It seems that leaders of many Communist nations are becoming disenchanted with their economies and are willing to try some good old-fashioned American-style free enterprise.

Communist leaders are granting more and more freedom to their citizens—and although that's good, don't be fooled. Communism may be economically bankrupt, but it is not ideologically dead.

Many people are hailing Mikhail Gorbachev as the free world's new leader. Again I say, don't be fooled. Gorbachev has taken some unexpected strides in the right direction, that is to say the direction the United States has been advocating for the past 30 years. But the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is not a free country. The leader of a country that is not free, obviously cannot be the leader of the free world.

The President of the United States remains the leader of the free world. He leads a nation that is the role model of freedom and free enterprise for the rest of the world. That is something Americans should be proud of. No American should ever be ashamed of the affluence of the United States. Instead, Americans should be proud, for no other nation in recorded history has done so much for the rest of the world. America has clothed, fed and assisted in the development of much of the globe. Nothing has been asked in return except that people be free and live in peace.

This is truly a noble legacy. A legacy that many envy, but none can surpass. Americans can be equally proud of their legacy of world leadership as well as their freedoms and guaranteed rights. The United States is a benevolent nation, a just nation and a compassionate nation. It is a nation that we, in the VFW, are sworn to keep strong and free. One of the ways we can do that is to develop and sustain a strong sense of patriotism among ourselves and our fellow citizens.

The VFW Americanism Program is enjoying one of its best years. As of this writing, we have 22 Departments at the 100%-level and 13 others are in the 90% range. No Department is out of the running. It will be difficult, but all 54 Departments can be 100% certified by the end of the reporting year on June 30, 1989.

In the Conference race, nothing has changed. The Big Ten leads with 96.65%. The West is second with 92.76% and the South is a solid third with 88.68%. The Eastern Conference is providing a firm foundation with 86.12%.

The VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary have always been among the leaders in advocating patriotic education for America's elementary school children. The VFW and

its Ladies Auxiliary have also been among the leaders in the successful completion of patriotic projects and programs.

We will continue to be the leaders in these areas, because without patriotic good works and the patriots who perform them, the freedoms and liberties we all enjoy as Americans would be in peril.

I can think of no better way of fulfilling "OUR PLEDGE TO AMERICA" than by extending the VFW's Americanism projects all over the nation. We look forward joyfully, filled with pride in what we have accomplished and with confidence for a successful future. We count 91 years of service to America, its veterans and local communities. We are "PROUD TO SERVE".

## Report of Buddy Poppy

EUGENE H. GEORGE, *Chairman*

THOMAS L. KISSELL, *Director*

"To assist worthy comrades, to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans . . ."

This pledge, a part of Article I of the Constitution of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, is partially kept through the sale of Buddy Poppies. Our 75th anniversary year sales have broken all previous records with the sale of 17,894,624 Buddy Poppies. This record-smashing success was the result of strength, ingenuity, stamina, courage and the limitless effort of every VFW Post and Ladies Auxiliary. Each and every member can be extremely and justifiably proud of this accomplishment and is to be commended for a job well done.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars has a proud heritage of service to disabled and needy veterans. The idea for the VFW's first sale of Buddy Poppies originated in 1922 when poppies were made and sold by women and children in the devastated regions of France. These poppies were symbolic of the ones used by the French people to greet American liberators.

Buddy Poppies are assembled by disabled and handicapped veterans at VA hospitals. All monies realized by the Posts from the sale of these memorial flowers are used for relief and service work. As Past Commander-in-Chief Robert G. Woodside said in 1922: "Every person in America should be proud to wear a Poppy on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, particularly when they know that the money they paid for the flower will be used to aid disabled former servicemen."

Worthy comrades are assisted through a nationwide system of veterans service officers. And the memory of the dead is perpetuated through the wearing of the Poppy. Widows and orphans are also aided in communities and at the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Mich.

Buddy Poppy plaques are awarded to Departments and Auxiliaries that record the greatest percentage increase over their previous three-year averages in each of the nine divisions. Divisions are determined by the three-year average sales per thousand of population, with the exception of foreign and domestic Departments with average sales of less than 45,000.

The Over One-Million Sales Club was instituted to pay special recognition to the Departments whose total sales exceeded 1 million—seven Departments qualify. The Department of Minnesota again led in annual sales with 1,203,830 poppies sold. The Department of Florida joined the club this year. Thirty-seven Departments contributed to this banner year for the Buddy Poppy Program by achieving increased sales goals.

Divisional winners for 1988-89 are: Division 1, Department of South Dakota and its Ladies Auxiliary; Division 2, Department of Wisconsin and its Ladies Auxiliary; Division 3, Department of Maine and its Ladies Auxiliary; Division 4, Department of Nevada and its Ladies Auxiliary; Division 5, Department of New Hampshire and its Ladies Auxiliary; Division 6, Department of Pennsylvania and its Ladies Auxiliary; Division 7, Department of California and its Ladies Auxiliary; Division 8, Department of Mississippi and its Ladies Auxiliary; and Division 9, Department of Panama Canal.

This outstanding sales year would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the many comrades and sisters who toiled in the field. The millions of patriotic men, women and children who proudly wore poppies in appreciation of the VFW's efforts on behalf of disabled veterans and their dependents also made it a success. To you, we say "Thank you."

National Buddy Poppy Committee members worked exceptionally hard this year to attain this recordbreaking sale of over 17.8 million poppies. The six members are

Eugene H. George, Oklahoma; Kelly Goddard, West Virginia; Dominic J. Romano, Connecticut; Ray Stelmachuk, North Dakota; Dwaine Wilson, Nebraska, and Joyce B. Wimer of Virginia, who represents the Ladies Auxiliary. Each is to be commended for their performance and dedication to the Buddy Poppy Program throughout the year. Such efforts reinforce the VFW's commitment to the nation's veterans and their dependents—"WE REMEMBER."

## Report of Community Activities

JAMES L. BOOTH, *Chairman*

RAYMOND N. PRICE, *Director*

The National Community Activities Program is known, and perhaps rightly so, as the VFW's umbrella program. Almost every project performed by a Post and/or Auxiliary, even those projects performed under the auspices of other VFW National programs, are credited as a Community Activities project.

Although this procedure will remain in effect, the VFW National Community Activities Program is about to undergo some major changes. These changes will, I believe, improve the program's overall effectiveness.

What we propose is that in addition to serving as an umbrella program, clearly defined programs not affiliated with other VFW National programs be developed and incorporated into the current Community Activities Program. I believe there should be at least ten "SET" community service projects with clearly defined parameters that VFW Posts and Auxiliaries can perform each year.

An awards system similar to the VFW National Safety Program's current successful one could be established. Then, if a Post and/or Auxiliary completed seven of the ten "SET" Community Activities projects they would earn and receive a National Community Activities Citation.

The "SET" projects would be established in the Community Activities categories (or parts of categories) that are not affected by projects in other VFW National programs.

Of course, all areas of community service work not covered by "SET" projects would continue to be credited as they are reported, including other program projects. The credit would be given under the category of other community activities. Although such a project would fully credit a Post and/or Auxiliary in Community Activities, it would not count toward the VFW Community Activities Citation.

This would, of course, require preparation of additional materials by the Community Activities Department. It would also require a revision of the National Programs Report Form and necessitate some minor adjustments to the computer program that records project credits and generates the monthly Post Activities Report.

The 1988-89 reporting year has been one of the best. As of this writing, there are 32 100%-Departments, eight others in the 90% range (two of them need only one Post) and no Post is so far back as to be out of the running. In fact, it is possible that all Departments could be 100% certified by the cutoff date of June 30, 1989.

In the conference race, the Big Ten leads with 98.40%. The South is in second place with 95.85% just edging out the West which has 95.10%. The East is still in the running with 89.84% which is a full percentage point above last year at this time.

Throughout our great Republic, VFW Posts and Auxiliaries are considered valuable and highly desirable parts of their communities. Why? Because they are truly interested in and take an active part in the affairs of their communities. Because service to the community is "OUR PLEDGE TO AMERICA."

The VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary raise the consciousness of communities in such vital areas as patriotism, safety and concern for youth through their involvement in VFW National programs.

The VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary promise a constant effort to keep America safe, free and strong because we are "PROUD TO SERVE."

## Report of Membership

LARRY LE FEBVRE, *Director*

At the beginning of the 1988-89 membership year, a challenge was issued by Commander-in-Chief Larry Rivers. The challenge was to stop the eight-year decline in



the number of new and reinstated members and to complete our 34th consecutive year of membership growth.

It was a tough job by anyone's standards, but the VFW has never backed down when the going got tough.

One could sense the enthusiasm at the National Convention in Chicago when a record of 85 new Posts was presented to the Commander-in-Chief.

The momentum continued, and at the end of September, the VFW was over 44,000 members ahead of the previous year's pace. That figure ballooned into 49,000 at the end of November, but then dipped as we closed out 1988 ahead by 34,281 members over the previous December.

That lead continued into the new year. By the time of the Washington Conference the organization was ahead by over 21,000 members. Congress knew then the was a vibrant veterans organization.

The big push to win the Commander-in-Chiefs Membership Cruise successfully concluded in March. Ten Departments were over 100%, the organization was over 27,000 members ahead, and all the commanders and National Council members who qualified for the cruise were told to start packing for the Caribbean.

On May 31 the Membership Report showed 27 100%-Departments and the National Organization at 100.02%, capturing the VFW's 34th consecutive year of membership growth.

At the end of June, 37 of our 54 Departments had exceeded the 100%-goal while 27 Departments surpassed the national average of 100.64%.

The best news is that the organization snapped it's eight-year decline in the total number of new and reinstated members, clearly indicating that the N/R Factor was a success.

Credit for this success lies not only in the outstanding leadership on all organizational levels but with each individual member who simply asked an eligible veteran to join. This back-to-basics approach of knocking on doors and asking coworkers and friends to join will continue to prove successful if the VFW is promoted with enthusiasm, sincerity and the firm belief that a better America will result from a stronger VFW.

The shotgun direct-mail solicitation program, with its discounted offers, was used extensively during the year. More than a million letters were sent to prospective members inviting them to join the VFW.

Over 45,000 comrades became life members this year—the Life Membership program remains a lifetime bargain.

Conference races were close as usual with the Big Ten leading the way at the Washington Conference. However, the Southern Conference found itself on top on June 30.

During the 90th National Convention, distinguished commanders who earned recognition as All American Commanders are honored. Twenty-six Department commanders achieved this prestigious award by meeting membership goals and reporting 85% overall participation in programs.

Forty-four District commanders qualified as All American by excelling in membership goals and fulfilling other criteria. Eighty-six Post commanders were also awarded the red, white and blue cap for outstanding performance in membership growth, VFW programs and Buddy Poppy purchases.

In addition, three All American County Council commanders were recognized for outstanding contributions and welcomed to this elite group of achievers.

A special salute to all Post, District and County Council commanders who were permanent fixtures each month on the National Honor Rolls. Special recognition is extended to those who finished on top in their respective divisions.

This year has been successful because we remembered the VFW's objectives, commitments to veterans and their families and obligations to the communities in which we live.

Our future will remain bright if we continue to remember and stay proud to serve, confident that the best is yet to come.

#### Active Life Members <sup>1</sup>

(Number of Members in thousands)

| Year       | Total   |
|------------|---------|
| 1970 ..... | 112,321 |
| 1975 ..... | 220,671 |
| 1980 ..... | 338,348 |

Active Life Members <sup>1</sup>—Continued

[Number of Members in thousands]

| Year      | Total                |
|-----------|----------------------|
| 1985..... | 500,002              |
| 1986..... | 533,882              |
| 1987..... | 572,379              |
| 1988..... | 606,426              |
| 1989..... | <sup>a</sup> 611,507 |

<sup>1</sup> As of 12-31 of each year.<sup>a</sup> As of 5-31-89.

## Report of National Civil Service and Employment Committee

R. D. SMITH, *Chairman*ROBERT L. JONES, *Special Assistant for Employment*

The past year represented a period when veterans programs were placed under close scrutiny in order to determine not program necessity, but program vulnerability. While the VFW welcomed the sweeping reforms mandated by Congress concerning the Veterans Employment and Training Service (VET), it regretted the elimination of the Veterans Job Training Act (VJTA). VJTA was the only major veterans-specific job training program sufficiently funded. It served as a viable national training tool to overcome the employment difficulties of Korean and Vietnam-era veterans. This program's loss is a serious blow to thousands of needy veterans.

Though the overall national unemployment rate presents a bright picture, available data suggests that significant unemployment persists among veterans. These veterans also require skills-training to be competitive in the evolving labor market. With the exception of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) IV C, which is a relatively minor program when measured in terms of national impact, veterans do not have preferential services in any other private sector employment and training program.

As of this writing, the draft final regulations of the Economic Dislocation Worker Assistance Act (EDWAA) are awaiting approval by the secretary of labor. Once approved, they can be forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget and published in the Federal Register. The initial EDWAA legislation did not contain specific veterans language, however, subsequent congressional action now requires coordination of EDWAA services with a variety of veterans programs.

This mandate can be attributed in part to the aggressive action of the Commander-in-Chief. He wrote to the appropriate congressional representatives as well as the secretary of labor concerning the seriousness of this oversight. The Commander-in-Chief also corresponded with each governor, stressing the necessity of including veterans needs in local plans and programs. The nature of EDWAA services dictates increased emphasis and program involvement at the Department level to ensure members receive appropriate assistance.

## Employment and Training

During this difficult period, the VFW has been a leader in seeking suitable alternatives. The proposals are fiscally responsible and will ensure continuity of quality service. VFW is now developing a national Veterans employment and training policy. This policy will address the employment needs of older, Vietnam-era and post-Vietnam veterans. A dialogue with service providers as well as national leaders is currently underway. A key element of the policy is a veterans-specific vocational training and re-training program.

In shaping tomorrow's work force, it is essential that America's veterans continue to contribute to the nation's security and economic well being. To do so, they must be functionally literate, vocationally attuned, and competitive. Projections for the future labor market clearly reflect a requirement for continuing access to training opportunities. The vast majority of veterans presently do not have an entree into such a program.

VFW's position has been that the formula, which drives the obligation of funds for JTPA IV C and the intent of this title, must be legislatively changed to provide

a mechanism for vocational training and continuing education for all veterans regardless of era. According to Owen B. Butler, chairman of the Committee for Economic Development's Subcommittee on Business and the Schools, "Any job that can be done by an illiterate can and will be done better and cheaper by a machine; therefore, illiterates are, by and large, unemployable, and will remain unemployable." Veterans are among the 27 million functionally illiterate Americans.

### Employment Service Administration

The Employment Service Administration (ESA), a state program funded by the Department of Labor, has felt the Office of Management and Budget's knife as the administration continues to carve away at the ability of the ESA to fulfill its intended purpose. Budget reductions have seriously reduced the credibility of the ESA and have led to a siege mentality among its many dedicated employees who are uncertain of their future. Also, ESA automation systems are archaic and the devolution concept has again reared its head.

In many states, programs are being reorganized to prepare workers for a rapidly changing competitive labor environment. The status quo of independent systems admittedly will not adequately fulfill the needs of the nation. Fragmented programs must be unified into a coherent delivery system. Isolation and lack of interaction must be replaced with a cohesive partnership of education, training and employment programs.

We support the return of the ESA to a dynamic national service, armed with flexible targeted programs, capable of fulfilling its statutory responsibilities, and working in harmony with educational agencies. To accomplish the stabilization and revitalization of the ESA, we have endorsed the appropriation of sequestered Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) revenues.

Unifying service without dismantling veterans preferential services is a major challenge. We will not tolerate further erosion of veterans programs and services, nor will we accept the misuse of dedicated veterans staff mandated by law to deliver these priority services. Programs will be held accountable for the quality of services provided to veterans.

The demands of international competition, technological innovation and changing demographics present a challenge to expand economic opportunities that promote overall economic efficiency. Increased emphasis is being placed on education, training and employment activities, which are the key ingredients in efforts to promote economic self sufficiency and reduce public dependency.

The prohibition of mandatory retirement ages combined with shortages of younger work force entrants make older Americans, in particular veterans, an appealing manpower resource for employers. Employers are in a crisis environment confronted with labor shortages at all levels. A rational and comprehensive approach to retaining older veterans in the labor market is essential. The scope of public policy must be expanded to include liberalization of pension laws and re-engineering of jobs to accommodate older veterans who wish to continue working.

The federal government is faced with a "crisis of competence" at a time when it is seeking employees to perform increasingly complicated and technical work. It has been estimated that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is unable to fill 35,000 jobs in most competitive fields. OPM has reached a crucial period which requires the administration to re-think its recruiting priorities, goals and procedures. Confronted with a dwindling competent labor pool, OPM has informally raised the issue of a more subjective application of veterans preference in the hiring process.

### Disabled Veterans

By the year 2000, the Department of Defense projects 3 million recently separated veterans of which 239,000 will have service connected disabilities. Of this number, approximately 108,000 will have service connected disabilities 30% or greater. These veterans will have been exposed to more varied job experiences and will have to obtain higher technological skills than the average labor force entrant.

An estimated 810,000 Vietnam-era veterans have service connected disabilities while 14% of "in-country" veterans have disabilities. Another 1.5 million veterans from other eras have service connected disabilities. Veterans with disabilities experience significantly higher rates of joblessness compared to the non-disabled. Men with higher disability ratings are also less likely to be in the labor force.

Comparing veterans hiring data contained in OPM's congressional annual report clearly shows the significant difference in commitment between agencies concerning disabled veterans employment.

Of 2.9 million federal employees, 1.5 are veterans at least 30% disabled. However, the percentage of that group who received non-competitive appointments represents less than .05% (975) of federal employees. One-third of those veterans with service connected disabilities work in federal, state or local government jobs.

The prospect of hiring disabled veterans initially seems to raise the specter of increased training, turnover, absenteeism, facilities modification and decreased productivity. A 1986 Harris survey of managers' attitudes found, "Although most believe that the disabled will be more reliable, they fear voluntary absenteeism and turnover . . . also . . . a lack of flexibility in job assignment and the difficulty of promoting." A recent report indicates those responsible for Disabled Veterans Affirmative Action Programs (DVAAP) commit 10% of their time to the task of countering these attitudes.

OPM's focus is on new recruiting incentives, simplification, efficiency and opportunities. Translating this emphasis into action throughout federal agencies is a complicated process, as agencies ignore or seek ways to circumvent the intent of veterans preference laws. Federal agencies have various employment gatekeepers and decision-makers. We believe veterans employment planning and training is the responsibility of every manager. Though sympathetic to the dilemma confronting OPM, the VFW cannot accept any proposal that will further dilute veterans preference laws. We have thrown down the gauntlet, challenging OPM to work with our Washington Office staff to seek mutually beneficial legislative enhancement of public sector veterans employment programs.

At the Department and Post levels, members must become increasingly aware of the employment and training service delivery system and how it functions. We must be active participants in the local employment network, clearly articulating our membership's views and conducting the necessary follow-up to ensure their needs are incorporated into program delivery plans. Veterans must become full partners in the public/private sector coalition if future programs are to be responsive to their needs.

As Sen. Strom Thurmond said, "There's nothing more important than getting people jobs, and the people who ought to have priority in jobs are the veterans. They're the ones who wore the uniform, they're the ones who fought the battle, they're the ones who preserved our freedom. And of all people who need to be protected, it's our veterans."

## Report of National Home

ARLENE MC DERMOTT, *President, Board of Trustees*

MARYJANE PECK, *Executive Director*

VFW's National Home is a reflection of the commitment and pride VFW members have in their organization. A community of caring serving veterans' families since 1925, the National Home houses children without parents and single-parent families who need help. Eligibility is based on VFW or Ladies Auxiliary affiliation.

In October 1988, a new executive director assumed responsibility for the Home. Maryjane Peck is leading the Home with an eye to the future. Her energetic approach to management has geared staff to a high level of excellence. Her genuine admiration for the sacrifices made by VFW members is evident in her commitment to make the National Home a worthy memorial—one that serves America's future.

The National Home is completely funded by the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary. It does not receive federal money. Programs to raise operational funds include the annual Seals campaign, bequests and National Home Life Memberships, as well as special gifts.

In each of the past three years, the Home has served an average of 104 children. It's ability to house is being expanded so that the number of residents we can help is increased. The Home is actively seeking and serving veterans' children and families—the number of homeless attest to its need. You are the key to finding those who can use the help the Home has to offer. Contact the VFW National Home, Eaton Rapids, Mich. 48827-9799 for information on programs, referral or funding.

Eligibility for entrance into the National Home falls under four categories:

- A child whose parent is deceased or totally disabled and that parent is a VFW member;
- A child whose parent is deceased or disabled and the living or non-disabled parent is a VFW or Ladies Auxiliary member;
- A child whose grandparent is a VFW or Ladies Auxiliary member; and



—A child whose parent is a VFW or Ladies Auxiliary member, and a home-study investigation by National Home staff reveals that the child's home situation is not conducive to the child's proper health.

Children who come to us are given a home for as long as they need it. Many live with us through high school graduation and are supported while attending college. Children living in the National Home enjoy a wide range of recreational activities planned by Community Center personnel. They also have ample opportunity to become involved with Eaton Rapids school and church groups, tutorial and enrichment programs within the Home's Education Department and a weekly chapel service. A full staff of counselors and support personnel is available to help them cope with problems and build for the future.

Other Home features include a well-equipped fire department (adult and some teenage volunteers are licensed firefighters), 4-H and adventure experience at a student training program, a full scholarship program, Independent Living (for upper level high school students demonstrating responsible behavior) and aftercare for those who have graduated from high school.

## Report of National Legislative Service

J. P. COCKRILL, *Chairman*

JAMES N. MAGILL, *Director*

### 100th Congress, Second Session

On Oct. 22, 1988, the historic 100th Congress adjourned sine die. With respect to veterans legislation, the 100th Congress will in all likelihood be remembered as one of the most effective Congresses in recent history.

### Department of Veterans Affairs

First and foremost of all the bills enacted into law during the 100th Congress was H.R. 3471 a bill upgrading the Veterans Administration to a Cabinet department. Signed into law last Oct. 25, the Department of Veterans Affairs Act became effective last March 15. A former Illinois congressman, Edward J. Derwinski, was named the first secretary of veterans affairs, the new law's designation for VA administrator. The law also provides for a deputy secretary, chief medical director, chief benefits director, and up to six inspectors general—all appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Up to 18 deputy assistant secretaries will be appointed by the secretary of veterans affairs.

The Department of Medicine and Surgery became the Veterans Health Services and Research Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs; the VA Department of Veterans Benefits was redesignated the Veterans Benefits Administration, and the Department of Memorial Affairs is now known as the National Cemetery System.

Enactment of this landmark legislation was the culmination of many years of hard work by the VFW. Even though a vast majority of the Congress supported the measure, many obstacles had to be overcome. Through perseverance by the membership of the VFW in contacting their Congressmen, the obstacles were overcome and this longstanding VFW priority goal is now a reality. Judicial Review In addition to the Cabinet-level bill, Congress also sent to the President legislation providing for judicial review of VA benefit determinations effective Sept. 1, 1989. After over a decade of controversy, a compromise was achieved in resolving this issue.

Under the law, a new three-to-seven member federal court will hear appeals of adverse decisions rendered by the VA's Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA). Veterans now will be able to protest denials of benefits after they have exhausted all avenues with the BVA. The new court will be an Article I Court. This means veterans service organization representatives still will be allowed to represent veterans in appealing claims. Should a veteran wish to be represented by an attorney at this level, however, the \$10-cap on fees lawyers can charge will be replaced by a "reasonable" fee schedule. Finally, veterans can appeal cases denied by the Court of Veterans Appeals to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the federal circuit but only in cases challenging laws and regulations not individual questions of fact.

BVA will remain intact. The President, however, will now appoint its chairman. This assures BVA independence.

Also included in the judicial review legislation was a provision for a 4.1% cost-of-living increase for veterans receiving service connected disability compensation and

survivors receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. This increase became effective last Dec. 1.

Along with judicial review and the cost-of-living adjustment, the new law also has numerous other provisions affecting veterans.

#### Other Provisions of the Judicial Review Law

*Agent Orange:* The new law increases the authorization level to \$4 million for the Ranch Hand Study Blood Testing program. This includes funding for an independent survey of the scientific evidence, studies and literature on the health effects of possible exposure to toxic chemicals contained in herbicides used in Vietnam. It extends by 15 months—from Sept. 30, 1989 to Dec. 31, 1990—VA health-care eligibility for Vietnam veterans who may have been exposed to dioxin (and certain veterans exposed to ionizing radiation). With respect to the Agent Orange litigation settlement, the law treats payments received in connection with the settlement as reimbursement for prior un-reimbursed medical expenses. They will not be counted as income for purposes of laws administered by VA. Finally, updates on any health risks will be provided to veterans as they become known rather than on an annual basis.

*Rehabilitation:* The new law extends for three years through Jan. 31, 1992, the temporary programs of trial work periods and vocational rehabilitation evaluations for service-connected disabled veterans rated totally disabled based on a determination of individual employability. It also removes the requirement that these veterans undergo vocational rehabilitation evaluations to determine their rehabilitation potential. Extended for three years, from Jan. 31, 1989 until Jan. 31, 1992, are temporary programs of vocational training for certain non-service disabled veterans newly awarded need-based pensions. Three years' protection of veterans pensioners' VA health-care eligibility is included if they lose pension entitlement as a result of work income.

*Health Care:* The law provides a technical correction so that outpatient contract care authority may be made available to veterans with service connected disabilities rated at 30% or 40%, if their incomes are at or below the VA pension standard. Or if they are former prisoners of war, World War I veterans, or are receiving compensation or pension aid-and-attendance or housebound benefits.

#### Education

A third measure cleared by Congress in the final days of the 100th Congress and sent to the President was S. 2049—the Veterans' Benefits and Programs Improvement Act of 1988. The new law gives certain military service personnel who opted out of the Montgomery GI Bill a second chance to participate. Service members will be provided a one-time, seven-month enrollment window beginning Dec. 1, 1989. This is limited to those who entered active duty between July 1, 1985 and June 30, 1988. A death benefit for certain survivors of service members who participate in the Montgomery GI Bill and who die while on active duty is included. The benefit will equal the amount reduced from the participant's basic pay (\$100 for each of the first 12 months of service) minus any amount of educational assistance he or she might have received. The bill further provides that a GI Bill participant discharged from military service for a pre-existing medical condition or a reduction in force will be entitled to one month of educational assistance for each month of active duty served.

The law gives veteran-students assistance sometimes necessary to pursue their education successfully. First, it provides authority to pursue refresher, remedial and deficiency courses under the Montgomery GI Bill, the Veterans' Educational Assistance Program and Chapter 35, the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program. Additionally, it makes Montgomery GI Bill and VEAP participants eligible for tutorial assistance.

Also, the disabling effects of chronic alcoholism shall not be considered the result of willful misconduct. Thus individuals with entitlement to VA education or rehabilitation programs would be eligible for delimiting-period extensions based on chronic alcoholism on the same basis that extensions are granted for physical or mental disabilities.

Another provision expands opportunities for service connected disabled veterans in VA rehabilitation training by including unpaid training or work experience with state and local government agencies. Only federal agencies are currently permitted to provide unpaid training as work.

### 101st Congress: First Session

*U.S. Senate:* The 1988 elections gave Democrats a tighter hold on the U.S. Senate. Democrats won 19 of the 33 seats up for re-election which gives them a 55 to 45 majority over Republicans. Democrats were able to retain 15 of their 18 seats and captured Republican seats in Connecticut, Virginia, Nebraska and Nevada Republicans, on the other hand, were not successful in reclaiming control of the Senate. But they captured three historically held Democratic seats as well as retaining 11 of their own 15 seats.

The 101st Congress also gained a new Senate majority leader. Robert C. Byrd (W. Va.), who led the Senate for 12 years, decided to step down to become chairman of the Appropriations Committee and Senate president pro tempore, making him the third in line for succession to the U.S. Presidency. With Sen. Byrd's announcement, Sen. George Mitchell (Maine) won 27 votes to succeed Byrd, one vote short of a majority, and nearly twice the number of his two opponents who were tied at 14 each.

Democrats rounded out their leadership team by re-electing Sen. Alan Cranston (Calif.) as Democratic whip and chose Sen. David Pryor (Ark.) for the number three position as secretary of the Democratic Conference.

Republicans, as expected, returned their leadership team to the 101st Congress. Sen. Robert Dole (Kan.) was re-elected minority leader without opposition as was Assistant Minority Leader Alan K. Simpson (Wyo.). Senate Republicans also returned Sen. John H. Chafee (R.I.) as Republican Conference chairman and chose Sen. Don Nickles (Okla.) as its new campaign committee chairman.

*U.S. House of Representatives:* More than 98% of House members seeking re-election were returned to Congress. Some 95% won by more than 10 percentage points. Democrats increased their House control by a net gain of three seats, resulting in a House membership totaling 260 Democrats and 175 Republicans. As was expected, the two parties re-elected the same leadership teams they had in the last Congress. Rep. Jim Wright (Texas) returned as speaker of the House, Rep. Thomas Foley (Wash.) returned as majority leader, as did Rep. Tony Coelho (Calif.) as majority whip. Republicans re-elected Rep. Robert Michel (Ill.) as their minority leader and chose Rep. Dick Cheney (Wyo.) to be the new minority whip. Rep. Jerry Lewis (Calif.) became the new Republican Conference chairman. Cheney was later selected as President Bush's secretary of defense.

### Budget

The first session of the 101st Congress got off to a slow start. No major pieces of legislation were enacted during the first few months. Congress, however, did spend this time deliberating the fiscal year 1990 budget. Complicating the procedure this year was the fact that President Reagan offered his FY '90 budget. Then when he became President, George Bush offered his version. This delayed congressional action and led as of this writing, the House and Senate are meeting in conference to iron out a difference of \$120 million in funding levels for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

For the third year in a row, the VFW joined three other major veterans' organizations in a cooperative effort to develop and present to Congress a budget proposal for VA program needs.

Previous independent budgets have been well received in Congress, and the VFW was particularly gratified that last year's submission was considered an effective counterpoint to the administration's FY '89 budget request.

VFW's decision to collaborate in the production of a budget submission—independent of the administration—was, and continues to be, based on a final loss of confidence in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB's) intention or ability to address veterans issues objectively or to support the moral and legal obligations this nation has toward the men and women who have served the nation is questionable.

The traditional and proper role of the Executive Branch is to provide Congress with accurate data on the amount of appropriations necessary given effective management and employee efficiency to provide no less than adequate service to veterans in accordance with congressionally-directed programs.

Congress needs this type of budget formulation to vote funds wisely and responsibly. If funds are simply not available to provide this level of service, even with reasonable productivity improvements, congressional decisions must be made after expert input from the VA on where budget cuts will have the least negative impact on veterans. It has become agonizingly clear to the VFW that this commonly accepted and rational approach to budget making has been turned on its head by the OMB. Budget cuts are predetermined and made in the insular world of numbers.

Budget formulation by VA managers reflecting their real needs in providing service to veterans has become a futile exercise. Their voices fall on deaf ears at OMB. Because needs too often are ignored or obfuscated by OMB in its final budget document, Congress is deprived of this essential input.

The result is a budget divorced from reality because it has little relationship to the needs of real people. The process feeds on itself, becoming even more detached from reality when the administration attempts to justify it. Thus when confronted with facts demonstrating grossly inadequate service that is due to grossly inadequate resources, the administration's specious premise is that funds requested were sufficient to provide adequate service. This led to the erroneous conclusion that the level of service to veterans must, therefore, be adequate. The flawed process has become so entrenched that decisive action must be taken to break this vicious circle.

The FY 1990 independent budget documented the sorry state of service to veterans with more than statistics. It described actual results affecting people which have been caused by the erosion of the VA resources base. Perhaps most glaring was the admitted denial of needed medical care to eligible veterans and the deteriorating quality of care afforded others.

Last year's independent budget not only voiced the concerns of veterans, it also incorporated the concerns of VA managers and employees within the budget process—concerns otherwise muted. We have every confidence that VA employees have the talent, information, dedication and motivation to provide the quantity, quality and timely service which veterans deserve, given adequate resources.

Their frustration, however, must be as great as that of the VFW because not only have they not been provided with the tools necessary to do their jobs, they lack the means to obtain them through an obviously flawed budget process. We, therefore, feel compelled to speak for them.

The urgency of the FY 1990 independent budget cannot be overstated. By any standard, service to veterans is at an all-time low. Given the current situation, the VFW believes that a fundamental change the budget-making process must occur if this situation is to be corrected. We take satisfaction in the more direct involvement of Congress in the assessment of VA staffing and resources needs. Also in directing that essential management initiatives be implemented.

The FY 1989 administration budget proposal, however, with its woefully inadequate appropriations request for the delivery of essential service to veterans, was the continuation of a long-term practice of unrealistic budget submissions. The problem is that the existing process does not take into account the cumulative damage inflicted on veterans by a series of ill-advised budget requests.

Rather, each year's request is considered separately with current services being defined by adding funds for some, but not all, uncontrollable new expenses to the eroded resources baseline of the previous year. The shortfall is then compounded by further purely arbitrary cuts. The fact is, however, that even if proposed cuts are not accepted by Congress, the basic problem is nonetheless perpetuated because a continuation of an ever-diminishing "current service" level can result only in further service deterioration. Another year in this vicious cycle will be nothing short of disastrous.

### Three Major Budget Challenges

In shaping an independent budget, we were faced with three challenges. One is the increasing demand on VA programs that stems from the aging of the veteran population.

The first challenge was the need for more services from the VA health-care system and its cemetery and memorial affairs program for World War II and Korean War veterans. They are reaching 65 and over, and their medical needs and death rates are increasing dramatically.

The second challenge was to reverse the erosion of the resources needed to provide veterans their earned benefits. Over the past several years, this erosion has been a common administration response to veterans. Now it has reached crisis proportions in all general program areas. This erosion of the resources base associated with veterans programs is having a severe impact on the ability of veterans to receive benefits in a timely and qualitative manner. It has occurred over several years and now presents a need for vastly improved funding to meet program requirements. In medical care, this underfunding is causing severe cutbacks in several program areas and is threatening the quality of care and the ability of the VA to support optimally its affiliation program.

Third was veterans unmet needs for VA services, which appear in the veterans benefit area where severe deficiencies are found in services provided to veterans.



These result primarily from understaffing of the Department of Veterans Benefits, the VA unit that administers benefits programs. We have also found evidence of multiple types of unmet health care needs across the VA system.

In light of the need for austerity, an important component of our strategy consists of confining our initiatives to actions dealing with veterans most urgent needs and proposing to meet these needs in the most economical fashion possible.

On the other hand, shortfalls in funding that have accumulated over the past several years must be eliminated before permanent irreparable damage occurs to veterans benefits. This brings about the need for a considerable infusion of funds in this period of budget austerity.

Our overall strategy recognized that total veterans benefit program costs increase less rapidly than does inflation because of the declining number of program beneficiaries in the largest benefit programs—compensation and pensions. All such savings should be regarded as available to meet the growing need for health care services that arise as the veteran population continues to age.

In the benefits administration area, our strategy is directed primarily at improving VA service. We seek service in the adjudication of claims that measures up to standards of timeliness and quality of the late 1970s, as well as comparable improvements in other important service areas. This will require: (1) an increase in staff; (2) the installation of an appropriate computer system in the VA and their integration across departments of the VA; and (3) the establishment of needs-directed training programs that will develop, maintain and upgrade the skills of the benefits program staff.

### Cost of Living

Veterans are willing to shoulder their share of the burden of deficit reduction. VFW will accept a curtailed cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in 1990 in veterans benefits programs if all other federal program beneficiaries including Social Security recipients do likewise. And if there is a similar curtailment of federal contract cost increases that are due to COLAs in contractor employees' wages. Otherwise, we call for a full and equitable COLA increase in veterans benefits programs. Our strategy for benefits also calls for putting the loan guarantee program on a sound financial footing as a VA-operated program.

### Medical Care

With regard to medical programs, our strategy is to attack current problems of unmet need and to meet growing need in the future by increasing emphasis on less expensive care modalities. In particular, our recommendation is for more reliance on non-institutional forms of care, which are generally far more economical than institutional modalities. The VA has recently achieved impressive shifts toward non-institutional care in the mix of care it delivers, and our strategy calls for still further shifts in this direction. In order to provide quality care to veterans, the VA must use state-of-the-art equipment and adequately staff VA facilities. To keep the health care system functioning at an acceptable level will require additional funds just to eliminate serious shortages that now exist, and to preclude such shortfalls in future years.

Our strategy in Medical and Prosthetic Research is to re-establish and maintain a more adequate, stable and assured resource capability to halt the VA's deteriorating ability to fund high quality research proposals.

Our primary strategy in medical administration is to plan for the MAMOE—budget the necessary resources and program authority to meet the imperative of protecting, in all of its ramifications, access to and quality of VA health care.

Our strategy in VA construction includes the necessity of maintaining the system of VA health care facilities assuring that they are in good repair. Also, functional space must be updated to keep up with the changes in health-care delivery technology and needs. In addition, we call for the development of a system that will realistically assess the need for construction and include a sound system for setting construction priorities. Our strategy also calls for an expansion of the National Cemetery System to make burial plots available in reasonable proximity to veterans families.

### Fighting Inflation

In making specific funding recommendations for various VA functions the independent budget, for the most part, only suggested increases which would allow the VA to stay abreast of inflation or maintain a current services funding level.

Total appropriations for the VA in FY 1988 were \$28.3 billion. Just to maintain the same level of service in FY 1989 would require \$29.7 billion. This concept of maintaining the same level of program activity as in FY 1988 is what we mean by current services. The dollar increase from FY 1988 to FY 1989 needed to maintain current services (that is, to maintain the FY 1987 level of services provided) is large—about 5%. Providing this increase is obligatory if the VA is to continue to provide the level of services in FY 1990 as was provided in FY 1988.

Unfortunately, the FY 1989-enacted appropriations total about \$500 million less than the FY 1989 current services level (that is, less than the amount necessary to continue to provide the FY 1988 level of services). We call for appropriation of the additional amount needed to reach the current services level in FY 1989 so that the VA can continue to provide the services it has offered in the past. If these additional funds are not appropriated, a considerable cutback in medical care, medical research and in grants to states for extended care facilities will be required. Further, there will accrue an enormous backlog of applications for various veterans benefits that will not be processed for lack of staff.

## Report of National Security and Foreign Affairs

DAVID L. STEIN, *Chairman*

KENNETH A. STEADMAN, *Director*

*"The defense policy of this country rests in our hands. With our votes and through our continuing involvement, we can and must send a clear and convincing message to both friend and foe; a message that reaffirms our commitment to peace and conveys our resolve to remain the best military force on earth. Those of us who cherish freedom remain determined never to be duped into reducing our defense either by false claims about the defense 'burden' or false hopes about the Soviet intentions . . .*

*"The times in which we live call for strong leadership and firm resolve. We must stand with the forces of democracy and freedom. There is no other choice. There is no acceptable alternative."*

—From the acceptance speech of Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers

Commander-in-Chief Rivers carried the VFW's concerns for national security and foreign affairs to members of Congress, the Cabinet and the President. The Commander-in-Chief expressed concerns for Central America and American POW/MIAs and expressed support for a strong national defense whenever he met with national political leaders.

In one of his first actions, he commended the President and leaders of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees for coming to agreement on the FY 1989 Defense Authorization Act. "Overcoming political differences," he said, "will strengthen our security, continue the Strategic Defense Research Program and provide increased benefits to the men and women of our Armed Forces."

During meetings with members of Congress and also by letter, Commander-in-Chief Rivers outlined the VFW position concerning the President's authority. He wrote members of the House, urging rejection of a provision of H.R. 3822, which would limit the President's authority to conduct covert operations necessary for national security. He said: "H.R. 3822, the Intelligence Oversight Act of 1988, contains a provision which would require the President to notify Congress within 48 hours of all covert operations. The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, in accordance with VFW Resolution No. 452, 'Stop Limiting Presidential Authority', adopted at the August, 1988, National Convention in Chicago, is strongly opposed to this provision."

With the help of all VFW Departments, opposition to the bill became stronger than ever and was ultimately withdrawn from House consideration. Rep. Gerald Solomon wrote Commander-in-Chief Rivers to express his thanks for the VFW's effort: "As you are aware, this bill would have seriously undermined our country's ability to conduct effective intelligence operations. Clearly, it was the national grass-roots opposition generated by the VFW which provided the margin needed to prevent congressional passage of this dangerous legislation."

## POW/MIA

The Commander-in-Chief has been fully committed to the POW/MIA issue. In his discussions with Washington policy-makers, he has pressed for the fullest possible accounting of the missing men—at the earliest opportunity. He has expressed the VFW's long-standing commitment to this issue and has kept abreast of every devel-

opment. Soon after taking office, he publicly criticized Vietnam for its refusal to support the high priority of the POW/MIA issue. In a press release, Commander-in-Chief Rivers said: "The Vietnamese have to realize that broken agreements affect the attitude of American veterans toward Vietnam. Until the Vietnamese respond to America's concerns, veterans are not likely to consider Vietnam's concerns. Veterans have to make sure Vietnam understands how deeply we feel about men missing in action."

"Sept. 16 is POW/MIA Recognition Day and I hope all veterans, and all Americans, will help us convince Hanoi that it is in its best interest to cooperate with the U.S. government to reach the fullest possible accounting as soon as possible."

"The Vietnamese either do not realize or have not recognized that our POWs/MIAs are a top priority issue with American veterans. This is the fourth time Hanoi has agreed to accelerate the resolution of the POW/MIA issue and then broken the agreement. It shows a complete disregard for the POW/MIA concerns expressed by VFW members at the August convention."

Later, after Vietnam agreed to resume search efforts for our missing men, Chief Rivers again responded.

"I am hopeful that this can produce fast results and can lead to an even greater effort that will resolve this issue as soon as possible. This announcement indicates that Gen. John W. Vessey, Jr., special Presidential emissary to Vietnam and recipient of the VFW's Dwight D. Eisenhower Award, has been able to overcome Vietnam's reluctance to move forward on this joint effort."

"Resolution of this issue is one of the VFW's top priorities, and I know Gen. Vessey has carried this message to Hanoi. I am really hopeful this will signal the beginning of the early resolution of this issue and I assure Gen. Vessey of our continued support to resolve this issue."

The Commander-in-Chief followed up his discussions with policy-makers by providing them with copies of VFW resolutions outlining the organization's position on the POW/MIA issue. In letters to Secretary of State George Shultz, Sen. Claiborne Pell, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Rep. Robert J. Lagomarsino, chairman of the House Task Force on POW/MIA Affairs, the Commander-in-Chief urged resolution of this priority goal.

"As you will see, these resolutions firmly support government-to-government contact through Gen. John W. Vessey, Jr., the special Presidential emissary, as the means to reach our goal. The resolutions also urge continued negotiations with Laos as well as consideration of placing a permanent POW/MIA advisor in Vientiane, Laos, to ensure continuity in the negotiation process."

"I also call your attention to Resolution No. 455, 'Concerning the Korean War MIA Issue.' This resolution specifically addresses the 8,177 Americans still unaccounted for from the Korean War. It urges the U.S. government to apply maximum economic and diplomatic pressure on North Korea and to speak out forcefully on this issue of our men still missing in Korea and Southeast Asia."

Results so far have been promising but incomplete.

Three joint U.S.-Vietnamese search investigation teams have been sent out since September 1988. Some 59 sets of remains have been turned over, but not yet identified, and excavations of crash sites in Laos are proceeding. However, Chief Rivers has been concerned that these promising results would slowdown during the transition to a new administration and new Congress.

With the mandate of the VFW's resolutions in mind, Commander-in-Chief Rivers wrote to President-elect Bush to keep the POW/MIA initiatives and Gen. Vessey, the Presidential emissary to Vietnam, moving forward on this issue. He also urged the reappointment of Gen. Vessey, as special Presidential emissary to Hanoi to resolve the POW/MIA issue.

"Gen. Vessey has continued his service to his country with new initiatives which have prompted the Vietnamese government to show some indication of cooperation to resolve the fate of 2,383 Americans still missing in Southeast Asia," he wrote Bush.

"We would also urge that as conditions warrant, Gen. Vessey be appointed special Presidential emissary to the Laotian government to accomplish the same goal with respect to POW/MIAs unaccounted for in Laos. Lastly, in order to accomplish these functions, it would be warranted that Gen. Vessey and Gen. Robert Kingston, USA (Ret.), remain as members of the Defense Intelligence Agency's Senior Review Group concerning the intelligence efforts devoted to this POW/MIA issue."

The Commander-in-Chief's endorsement, based on convention action, was echoed by others, and shortly after the inauguration, Gen. Vessey was reappointed to his post as special Presidential emissary to Vietnam.

Chief Rivers followed up on the reappointment by pledging the VFW's cooperation in resolving the POW/MIA issue at the earliest opportunity. In a letter to President Bush's national security advisor, the Commander-in-Chief noted the VFW's POW/MIA concern since 1968 and added that the VFW "is more committed than ever."

"To that extent, we sincerely welcome President Bush's recent announcement that he will maintain the high national priority this issue deserves," he said.

Commander-in-Chief Rivers used other opportunities to express the views of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States on a wide range of other issues.

### The Philippines

When Philippine Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus visited the United States, Commander-in-Chief Rivers informed him of the VFW's mandated position on U.S. bases in the Philippines: "Please note from Resolution No. 434, a copy of which is enclosed, that we are urging the President and Congress to provide your country with the assistance it needs to defeat the Communist insurrection. Also note that we hope the lease allowing the United States continued access to the bases at Clark Field and Subic Bay will be renewed on an equitable basis. However, if no agreement can be reached, we will also urge the removal of our forces to an alternate location and a halt to all forms of aid and assistance."

To ensure the U.S. government was fully informed of his action, Chief Rivers also wrote Secretary of State Shultz, enclosing a copy of his letter to Manglapus:

"We support continued aid to the Philippine government and expect a fair and equitable renewal of the base lease agreement between the United States and the Philippines. However, I have informed Foreign Minister Manglapus that should a fair and equitable agreement not be reached, we will urge that U.S. forces be moved to an alternate location and all U.S. aid and assistance to the Philippines be cut. This position stems from VFW Resolution No. 434 adopted by our National Convention."

### Toshiba

In 1987 after the Japanese industrial giant Toshiba was charged with selling sophisticated machinery to the Soviets, Congress drafted legislation placing import restrictions on Toshiba products in retaliation for this breach of national security.

When Commander-in-Chief Rivers heard reports that Toshiba had evaded retaliation by lobbying for changes in the draft legislation, he reacted strongly. In a letter to all members of Congress, he spoke for the VFW on this national security issue when he voiced outrage over reports that "import restrictions on Toshiba products have been weakened due to the efforts of some highly paid lobbyists and lawyers." Although in 1987 "Toshiba sold over 40 milling machines and related technology to the Soviets in violation of COCOM rules, a serious breach of security that undermines our national security . . .

"Without these restrictions, there is no penalty system to prevent these foreign industrial conglomerates from further damage to our industrial or technological security. By allowing this to happen, Congress has let a handful of high-priced lobbyists and lawyers dictate what is best for our national security.

"Since Congress will not act to preserve U.S. security by imposing restrictive penalties, then the American public must be informed of this dereliction and urged to take action on their own.

"Enclosed is a nationwide press release in which I am urging VFW Commanders in all 50 states and in more than 10,000 Posts to question their congressional candidates on this issue during the forthcoming adjournment . . . the American public will demand stronger restrictions on Toshiba and other violators of our national security."

He also has been quick to recognize the contribution made by the men and women serving in the U.S. armed forces and their families. When Congress was considering a proclamation to recognize these military families, the Commander-in-Chief voiced the VFW's support: ". . . it is proper that we as a nation honor military families because their well-worn patience and sacrifices have strengthened the morale of our service members above any other single factor."

### Terrorism

In late December, Commander-in-Chief Rivers was briefed on the Greek government's action in support of terrorists, and the release of a terrorist suspect from a



Greek prison prompted him to inform the Greek ambassador of the VFW's views and resolution on terrorism:

"I am writing to express our outrage at the release of a terrorist suspect and our concern about the requested extradition of another.

"The recent action of the Greek government to release a suspected member of the Abu Nidal terrorist gang and to fly him to Libya is outrageous. Your government has released a terrorist to kill and maim the innocent and to tear at the very fabric of democratic societies.

"I hope this action is not a precedent for the release of another suspected terrorist wanted by the United States government. Mohammed Rashid, a convicted terrorist, is wanted for the mid-air bombing of a PanAm aircraft in 1982. Our government has requested his extradition to stand trial for that terrorist act, and we expect the Greek government to honor the request.

"At the VFW National Convention in Chicago this past August, delegates passed a strong resolution against terrorism. It calls for the U.S. to remind countries that are unwilling to assist U.S. counter-terrorist efforts that 'there are no neutrals in the war against terrorists.' It also urges the President to quarantine outlaw countries that 'harbor or aid terrorists.'

"If the Greek government should go beyond the moral outrage already committed and release the suspect, Mohammed Rashid, I am certain the over 2 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars will demand the President take decisive action to hold the Greek government accountable."

When a United States Court convicted another terrorist, Commander-in-Chief Rivers applauded the effort and reminded the Greek government again of its responsibility.

"This demonstrates that the U.S. government is serious about fighting back against terrorists and is determined to stop the victimizing of innocent American citizens. We hope that not only the terrorists, but also their supporters, get the message that we are fully prepared to find and punish them."

The Greek government's failure to respond to a U.S. request for the extradition of Mohammed Rashid prompted this protest:

"It's unfortunately necessary to remind the Greek government that Mohammed Rashid is wanted on terrorist charges. We expect the Greek government's active participation in the war against terrorists. I am also certain that if the government of Greece should take the terrorist's side on this issue, VFW's more than 2.2 million members will demand that President Bush take decisive action to hold the Greek government accountable."

When only a few days later, Libyan fighters provoked the U.S. Navy into responding, the Commander-in-Chief expressed the VFW's support for the Navy's defensive response.

"Whenever there is such clear evidence of armed hostility, U.S. armed forces must take necessary action to protect themselves. VFW will always support U.S. military forces when they are defending themselves."

### Panama

Commander-in-Chief Rivers foresaw the political crisis in Panama and urged the administration to take action before the situation became critical. In a letter to Secretary of State James A. Baker, Chief Rivers outlined the VFW's concerns: "The past year has witnessed the growth of a new, more ominous threat to the security of United States personnel and interests in Panama Military dictator Gen. Manuel Noriega has grown stronger with the support of Cuban Communists and South American narco-terrorists."

"In light of this threat, the VFW's 2.2 million members are concerned about the safety of U.S. citizens and security interests in the Panama Canal.

"Rumors now circulating tell of Cuban guerrillas training Panamanian volunteers in the jungle surrounding the canal with weapons bought by Libya's Qaddafi and the narco-terrorists. Still other confirmed reports mention numerous instances of harassment and intimidation by Panamanian Defense Forces of U.S. service personnel, civilian employees and their dependents.

"Yet during this past year, we have not heard of any action by the United States to protect American citizens or U.S. security interests from the dictator's intimidation. Nor have we heard of any preparations to deal with the transfer of canal authority to Noriega.

"It is my hope that by expressing these concerns privately you can, in due course, respond to reassure us that steps have been taken to reduce and remove this threat and ensure the safety and security of U.S. citizens and vital interests."

After the Panamanian election, Chief Rivers announced support for stronger measures by the United States government against Noriega. In a press statement, Commander-in-Chief Rivers said:

"It is clear the dangers in Central America are mounting. Fraudulent Panamanian elections and growing violence raise serious risks for democracy in Central America as well as for U.S. citizens and security interests. As these risks increase, the United States must act to protect U.S. citizens and interests and to indicate strong support for democracy.

"Preparing to evacuate U.S. citizens and reinforcing U.S. troops to guard the canal are only the first steps. Next, the administration should announce the U.S. will not recognize any Noriega-installed government and that the United States will not accept a canal administrator appointed by the fraudulent Panamanian government.

"Hopefully, such steps will encourage the Panamanian people to rally against Noriega while at the same time prevent the Panamanian dictator from interfering in the operations of the canal."

As Commander-in-Chief of the VFW, Larry W. Rivers has dedicated himself to attain the priority goals set forth in the resolutions. He urged the membership with the motto "WE REMEMBER" to keep U.S. defense strong and press forward on every issue to ensure the achieves these goals for America and its veterans.

## Report of National Veterans Service

BILLY RAY CAMERON, *Chairman*

FREDERICO JUARBE, JR., *Director*

Once again, as we assemble from across the nation to convene the annual National Convention, this article is intended as a report on the activities of the National Veterans Service (NVS). In any reference to the National Veterans Service, the emphasis should be on the word "your," since this is a commitment of service to the membership. One of the founding principles of the VFW is service to comrades, fellow veterans, their dependents and survivors. On these pages, NVS has an obligation to summarize the extent of that commitment. The area of service is one in which an organization can return to its membership real value for their dues-paying support.

VFW members have established a mandate to "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living." This report is intended to make those who may have a need, or know of someone who does, aware of the assistance provided by the VFW. The VFW offers claims representation, second to none, to any veteran who seeks it. However, it was in response to the membership that the VFW service program was organized. Potential members should be made aware of this substantial benefit, which accrues without charge or obligation of any kind to those who join.

### Service Program

NVS is charged with administering the VFW service program, which begins with a network of Post service officers. Each Post commander should appoint a Post service officer to serve as the initial point of contact for claims representation. The NVS staff prepares and publishes the VFW's "Guide for Service Officers" to provide the Post service officer with a ready reference work on claims representation before the Department of Veterans Affairs and other federal agencies. The 22nd edition of this respected publication appeared in the spring of 1989. No Post service officer should be without this valuable tool of some 300 pages. It may be available from the Department service officer or the Department Headquarters and is always on hand for delivery from the VFW Emblem and Supply Department in Kansas City. The guide is a source of great pride to VFW members. No other veterans service organization can look back to almost half a century of continuous publication of a similar volume.

VFW Department service officers and their assistants, located in 56 VA regional offices throughout the country, coordinate the efforts of Post service officers. All claims for benefits are funneled through the Department service officer. It is at this level that argumentation is first presented on behalf of a claimant and adjudication to determine an entitlement occurs. The Department service officer is only a phone call away from any member who requires assistance. In addition, all VFW service officers undertake some form of outreach to make themselves available to members and potential members residing in outlying communities or in more remote areas.

The Department service office is located where the action is for initial claims processing.

To keep current with the laws and regulations affecting VA claims, the NVS staff, Department service officers and many of their assistants meet twice annually to participate in demanding week-long training sessions. This training sharpens collective skills and improves qualifications to act on members' behalf in seeking possible entitlements or relief from problems posed by federal agencies. This training is authorized by VFV leadership, monitored by the National Veterans Service Committee and underwritten by the National organization as a demonstration of its commitment to ensure that the highest level of service is provided.

### Veterans Appeals

Under the guidance of the Executive Director of the VFW Washington Office, the NVS staff assists in the processing of appeals initiated by claimants before the Board of Veterans Appeals. The VFW is one of only a small number of veterans service organizations capable of providing appeals representation at the Department of Veterans Affairs. NVS military claims consultants, operating from the VFW Washington Office and the Pentagon, assist in presenting claims before each of the military service discharge review boards. Also, they make formal presentations before each of the armed service's Boards for Correction of Records to aid veterans seeking changes in their records.

VFV's nationwide service network handled more than 138,000 claims before the Department of Veterans Affairs between May 1988 and January 31, 1989. During that period, more than \$465 million was paid to veterans, dependents or survivors as a result of claims submitted on their behalf by the VFV's accredited representatives. More than 4,000 cases are presented annually to the Board of Veterans Appeals by NVS appeals consultants. An average of 130 former servicepersons schedule hearings before one of the military discharge review boards each month and ask for VFV representation.

### Health Care

NVS representatives continue to survey VA medical centers, regional offices, Vet Centers and national cemeteries, with emphasis on the VA health-care delivery system. The is one of only two veterans service organizations that perform this important function. Field representatives are the members "eyes and ears," particularly concerning the 172 medical centers. Their week-long visits demonstrate the VFW cares and signals to the bureaucracy that it must keep its house in order. When the VFW confronts the secretary of veterans affairs with problems and potential problems affecting veterans health care, it speaks from strength. Field representatives gather firsthand knowledge and by doing so keep members informed. VFW reports are taken seriously by the VA as well as Congress.

Another important aspect of NVS work is the constant interaction of staff members with all components of the Department of Veterans Affairs. For example, the staff meets monthly with the chief medical director. This is an informal meeting which gives VA the opportunity to share with the VFW obstacles they confront concerning health care. It likewise gives VFW representatives the chance to question the chief medical director regarding critical matters. Similarly, the staff meets quarterly with the chief medical director and the Office of Facilities. The list goes on. These meetings give the VFW an opportunity to provide input into policies and procedures under consideration by VA. These meetings also permit the VFW to encourage change from within, which works to the benefit of veterans and makes the VA more responsive.

Although the numbers of volunteers and volunteer hours are diminishing in VA medical centers, the VFW Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) has continued to grow. The NVS director serves as national VAVS representative, and the six staff field representatives serve as deputy national VAVS representatives. Some 172 dedicated VFW members serve as VAVS representatives at each of the VA medical centers, assisted by 282 deputies and 42 associates. These leaders coordinate the efforts of more than 6,000 volunteers who have devoted more than 925,000 hours to veterans. This unpaid cadre, motivated by a desire to serve their fellow man, are recognized by the VFW/NVS with certificates and lapel pins.

### Court of Veterans Appeals

Finally, a brief look at the challenges ahead. The U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals, enacted into law in the fall of 1988, has the authority to begin hearing cases effec-

tive Sept. 1, 1989. However, as of this writing, only a chief judge and one associate judge have been nominated to the court. Furthermore, the court's rules of procedure have not been established. NVS plans to present recommendations for representation before the court to the National Veterans Service Committee at the Convention meeting, depending on the court's progress. In any event, the VFW will carefully consider its options regarding possible representation before the court. The underlying principle guiding those considerations will be to best serve member needs and other veterans in the appeal process.

### **Pilot Service Office Program**

By action of the Mid-Winter Conference, the National Veterans Service Committee and the National leadership approved the Pilot Service Office Program (PSOP). PSOP is designed to improve service. The eight VFW Departments participating in PSOP will become permanent members of a National/Department partnership effective Sept. 1, 1989. Addition of the Department of the District of Columbia will bring to nine the number of Departments under the partnership. Other VFW Departments could be accepted at the rate of two per year. This forward looking approach is confirmation of the VFW's intent to strengthen its service.

On the medical side, quality care still counts. The marvels of modern medicine indicate a health-care structure emphasizing nursing home care for aging veterans and the need to accommodate a soaring demand for outpatient care. The present system devotes most of its resources to in-patient care for patients requiring acute and intermediate treatment. Medical centers may take on a different face over the next generation. This makes it especially important that the VFW ensure changes are well conceived and executed.

This is the NVS report to the membership—the delegates to the annual National Convention. NVS assures the members that in mid-1989 the service program remains vigorous and expansive. Under the guidance of the NVS Committee and the Executive Director of the Washington Office, the NVS staff remains vigilant in fending off assaults on veterans programs and entitlements. It stands ready to meet the service needs of all members and potential members.

### **Report of Political Action Committee**

*JOHN R. RAY, Chairman*

Delegates to the 80th National Convention held in New Orleans adopted Section 718, an amendment to the National By-Laws establishing the Veterans of Foreign Wars Political Action Committee.

#### **How Are Candidates Chosen?**

Candidates are selected by the VFW-PAC Board of Directors based on their votes cast on veterans entitlements and national defense-related issues. Each of the selected votes is measured against resolutions adopted by the delegates to VFW National Conventions and priority national security and legislative goals.

Non-incumbent candidates are considered for endorsement when an incumbent's voting record is less than 50%. In such races, a position paper dealing with veterans' entitlements and national defense is requested by the VFW-PAC Board of Directors. After reviewing these position papers and information received from the VFW leadership and PAC coordinators in each state, the board makes its final endorsement decisions.

The VFW-PAC separates fact from fiction regarding the complex votes on issues of importance to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

The VFW-PAC is non-partisan in making its endorsements. The VFW-PAC does not tell anyone how to vote but informs the VFW membership on how Congress has voted on non-partisan issues of interest to the VFW. Endorsements and contributions are made to Democrats, Republicans and independents alike, so long as they meet or exceed the endorsement threshold based on their votes.

The VFW-PAC and its Board of Directors are composed of Treasurer J. Douglas Forrest; John R. Ray, chairman; Ted C. Connell, Charles E. Kinney, William Procter, John Stang, Joe T. Wood and Rosemary Mazer, Ladies Auxiliary liaison. Past Commander-in-Chief James R. Currie will become PAC Director effective Sept. 1, 1989.

The following financial report is provided in accordance with Section 718 of the VFW National By-Laws:



## Political Action Committee Financial Report

|                                         |           |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|
| Cash at hand as of 6-30-88.....         | \$412,950 |
| Income:                                 |           |
| Contributions Individual.....           | 123,980   |
| Contributions Posts/Auxiliaries.....    | 132,557   |
| Interest Income (Investment).....       | 16,137    |
| Total.....                              | 272,674   |
| Expenses:                               |           |
| Operating Expenses.....                 | 198,506   |
| VFW-Power PAC Report.....               | 15,276    |
| Fundraising Expenses.....               | 154,408   |
| Candidate Contributions.....            | 52,000    |
| Total.....                              | 420,190   |
| Total Difference Cash and Expenses..... | 265,434   |
| Cash at Hand.....                       | 203,224   |
| Other Assets (Equipment).....           | 62,210    |
| Total Cash and Assets.....              | 265,434   |

## Report of Post Development

WILLIAM M. PROCTER, *National Chief of Staff*JOSEPH D. ROSS, *Director*

VFW established 265 new Posts across the nation from July 1, 1988 through May 15, 1989. These Posts reported more than 10,000 new and/or reinstated members. Such additions are vital to the VFW's continued growth.

The Post Development Program was established in 1965-66 as the Post Extension Program. Its primary function was to strengthen membership throughout the country by organizing new Posts. Since then more than 5,523 new Posts have been established. This represents a yearly average of 240 new Posts since 1966. The retention rate for Post Development is 77.05%. That means almost eight out of every ten Posts have succeeded. Review the "New Post Development and Membership" Section to determine the number of new Posts developed in your Department this year.

New Posts have given the VFW an opportunity to introduce many outstanding programs as well as enhance its image in new communities. Additional benefits include: added per capita tax to Departments and National Headquarters, increased Buddy Poppies sales, greater purchases of merchandise from the Emblem and Supply Department, an inclusion of new ideas and new leadership at all levels, better local service to veterans and their dependents and the opportunity to further the VFW's goals and ideals.

Most important for a new Post is the follow-up, something that will be stressed during the year. New Posts must be well informed of the VFW's basic aims, purposes and programs and assisted until they are on a sound basis. A well-versed member from the Department should be assigned to a new Post to monitor its progress. In many cases, an established Post will volunteer assistance or adopt a new Post as a project. This has proven successful in many Departments.

Each Post is important to the VFW's overall success and its individual programs. Dedicated leadership is the key to solving problems. Cancellation of a Post charter is seldom the answer. Once an unfavorable situation is confronted, it can usually be overcome.

Proper attention from the District, County Council and Department is also invaluable. Good leadership can rekindle member interest and inspire active participation. Loss of a Post means no community representation, and in the process, the local area is deprived of service and programs. New Post Development confirms that VFW "Remembers."

## New Post Development and Membership July 1, 1988 to May 15, 1989

[By Department]

| Department             | Total<br>Posts<br>Devel-<br>oped | Total<br>Member-<br>ship |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Alabama.....           | 3                                | 86                       |
| Alaska.....            | 1                                | 25                       |
| Arizona.....           | 5                                | 214                      |
| Arkansas.....          | 12                               | 575                      |
| California.....        | 18                               | 653                      |
| Colorado.....          | 5                                | 155                      |
| Connecticut.....       | 2                                | 143                      |
| Delaware.....          | 1                                | 69                       |
| Dist. of Columbia..... | 1                                | 35                       |
| Florida.....           | 8                                | 399                      |
| Europe.....            | 0                                | 0                        |
| Georgia.....           | 5                                | 276                      |
| Hawaii.....            | 0                                | 0                        |
| Idaho.....             | 0                                | 0                        |
| Illinois.....          | 18                               | 669                      |
| Indiana.....           | 8                                | 247                      |
| Iowa.....              | 2                                | 58                       |
| Kansas.....            | 5                                | 194                      |
| Kentucky.....          | 5                                | 216                      |
| Louisiana.....         | 15                               | 454                      |
| Maine.....             | 1                                | 29                       |
| Maryland.....          | 5                                | 143                      |
| Massachusetts.....     | 4                                | 112                      |
| Michigan.....          | 12                               | 510                      |
| Minnesota.....         | 2                                | 82                       |
| Mississippi.....       | 7                                | 227                      |
| Missouri.....          | 6                                | 281                      |
| Montana.....           | 0                                | 0                        |
| Nebraska.....          | 7                                | 235                      |
| Nevada.....            | 2                                | 84                       |
| New Hampshire.....     | 0                                | 0                        |
| New Jersey.....        | 9                                | 297                      |
| New Mexico.....        | 2                                | 67                       |
| New York.....          | 12                               | 480                      |
| North Carolina.....    | 8                                | 305                      |
| North Dakota.....      | 0                                | 0                        |
| Ohio.....              | 13                               | 778                      |
| Oklahoma.....          | 6                                | 477                      |
| Oregon.....            | 3                                | 119                      |
| Pacific Areas.....     | 1                                | 45                       |
| Panama Canal.....      | 0                                | 0                        |
| Pennsylvania.....      | 2                                | 59                       |
| Rhode Island.....      | 3                                | 88                       |
| South Carolina.....    | 5                                | 168                      |
| South Dakota.....      | 1                                | 27                       |
| Tennessee.....         | 4                                | 102                      |
| Texas.....             | 11                               | 375                      |
| Utah.....              | 1                                | 28                       |
| Vermont.....           | 1                                | 26                       |
| Virginia.....          | 4                                | 198                      |
| Washington.....        | 6                                | 214                      |
| West Virginia.....     | 1                                | 60                       |
| Wisconsin.....         | 12                               | 358                      |
| Wyoming.....           | 0                                | 0                        |
| Foreign.....           | 0                                | 0                        |
| Total.....             | 265                              | 10,442                   |

## Report of Post Services

THOMAS L. KISSELL, *Director*

The office of Post Services is charged with the responsibility for the collection, recording, maintenance and storage of the official records of over 10,000 Posts.

The annual Post Election Report is the primary source of information from which the Post Officer files are constituted and from which the rosters of Post Officers and the amount of annual dues for each Post are compiled and stored in electronic data processing.

The importance of the Post Election Report in the maintenance of the officer file is paramount. Without the information provided in the annual report of election, it is impossible for the Department or the National organization to communicate with the Post.

The Post Officer file is one of the most frequently used at National Headquarters so it is absolutely essential that the maintenance of the file be current at all times and that special attention be given to accuracy in storing and updating the records in data processing. The data processing file contains the names and addresses of the commander and quartermaster, the amount of annual dues, the name, location, date of muster and status of each of our over 10,000 Posts.

Annual dues notices cannot be mailed until the election report is revised because of the need to know the name and address of the Post quartermaster and the amount of the Post dues.

As the reports of election of Post Officers for the 1989-90 year are received and processed, computer-generated acknowledgements will be sent to the Post quartermaster-elect to confirm the names and addresses of the Post commander and Post quartermaster and the amount of annual dues. Copies of these acknowledgements and any subsequent changes are sent to the respective Departments.

The acknowledgement is made on a pre-addressed and prepaid return postcard with space provided for corrections and/or changes in any of the information shown on the card. If the information is correct, the Post retains the card for use during the 1989-90 administrative year to report any changes in the amount of Post dues and/or in the offices of Post commander and Post quartermaster.

As corrections and changes are reported and made, these, too, are acknowledged so the Post quartermaster always has a return postcard in his possession to report changes during the year.

Reviewing questions and documentation of eligibility of officers at all levels, as well as of current members and potential members, is an on-going process of Post Services and continues to be a very time-consuming project. Special Orders are issued terminating the membership of those who fail to provide documented proof of their eligibility.

Another area of responsibility for Post Services is the Post Inspection Program. In recent years, the Post Inspection Program has taken on increased significance. This program provides state commanders and other officers with important information concerning the operation of each Post under their jurisdiction. Post Inspections ensure that financial safeguards are maintained and the Post is operating in accordance with the provisions of the National By-Laws and regulations of the Department, as well as governmental statutes. All Inspection Reports are reviewed by the Director of Post Services. Where possible or known discrepancies are reflected, copies of the Inspection Reports are returned to the state commander asking for a review of the discrepancies and requesting corrective action be taken.

As a result of these review procedures, the Inspection Program has become more purposeful. When appropriately used, the results provide commanders with a reliable indication of potential trouble areas and give early indication of those Posts in need of assistance. Department Inspectors, along with their deputies who conduct inspections in a conscientious and concerned manner, can be assured this program will become a management tool of great value.

Other matters falling within the area of the responsibility of the Director of Post Services include the preparation and dissemination of the Post Adjutant Post Quartermaster Operations Manual, Special Orders, mailing list requests, and the monthly issuance of General Orders and the National Headquarters Bulletin. Management of the Word Processing Department also falls within the line of duty.

Our goal in Post Services, along with that of the entire administrative staff, is to ensure that the needs of our membership are better served.

## Report of Publications and Public Relations

JOHN LUTZ, *Chairman*

WADE LA DUE, *Director*

WILLIAM G. SMITH, *Director, Public Affairs, VFW Washington Office*

Our collective welcome to Las Vegas and the National Convention. This year marks nine decades of service to the nation. As in years past, the Publications and Public Relations staff will operate the VFW Press Room in Conference Rooms One and Two of the Hilton.

### Publications

With the retirement of James K. Anderson at the end of June after more than 20 years of dedicated service to the VFW—Richard Kolb, a Vietnam veteran and accomplished writer, has been named editor of *VFW Magazine*.

The magazine has undergone substantial design and editorial changes during the past year. We are also hopeful that the present soft paper market will allow upgrading the inside pages to a coated stock, which was previously uneconomical.

Congratulations are in order for the National Publication Contest winners listed below and to all editors throughout the VFW who spend countless voluntary hours keeping their readers informed. This is an invaluable contribution to the organization's overall communications effort.

### Public Relations

The results of marketing surveys completed late last year, while generally favorable concerning public relations and name recognition, did reinforce some known member desires included in current budget proposals. This includes such areas as an expanded public relations capability. In this regard, greater radio-TV-print advertising is receiving the leadership's attention.

The Public Relations offices in both Kansas City and Washington have been occupied reinforcing the resolutions passed at the 89th National Convention through various media. In addition, Flying Squadron, VFW history and Convention audiovisual productions have been released. Support for the national chair officers, dozens of speeches and responses to media questions have been time-consuming.

Through a media-distribution syndicate, literally thousands of medium-sized markets, suburban and small-market newspapers have used VFW-generated articles on organizational programs and priority issues.

A special media instructional course for the National leadership plus a similar three-hour session during the Senior Vice Commander—Adjutant/Quartermasters Conference was also coordinated by the Public Relations Office.

Here we'll repeat what is always worth repeating—no eligible veteran should be able to say, "I didn't know the VFW did that" or "I have never been asked to join." Although we'll use every resource at our disposal to see this never happens, your help at all levels will always be required.

The staff also wishes to thank the National officers for their support and input, plus the many members throughout the VFW who work in the trenches representing the organization in thousands of communities around the world.

## NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS CONTEST WINNERS

### Department Publications

Published 9-12 times annually: The VFW Leader, North Carolina, William C. Cox, editor; Published 4-8 times annually: Nebraska VFW News, Dick McMichael, editor.

### District & County Council Publications

Letterpress/offset: Recorder, District 2, California, Ed Staneart, editor; Mimeograph: District Four News, Michigan, Val Lemoncelli, editor.



### Post Publications

Letterpress/offset: Keeping Posted, VFW Post 1358, Florida, Dudley Lufkin, editor; Mimeograph: The Howard P. Hall Herald, Post 1064, West Virginia, John Carpenter, editor.

## Report of Safety

GEORGE B. SMITH, *Chairman*

JOSEPH D. ROSS, *Director*

Chairman George B. Smith and I wish to thank all members of the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary who participated in this year's Safety Program. Many long hours of hard work and extra effort by these comrades and sisters accounted for the Safety Program's success.

Member interest and enthusiasm have made Safety one of the organization's fastest growing programs. In 1988-89, VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary offered a six-point National Safety Program.

### Home Protection

Home Protection has two component parts: fire prevention and home security. Posts and Auxiliaries across the nation as well as overseas conduct seminars to educate citizens on how to protect people and property.

As a community service, in conjunction with local law enforcement and fire department officials, VFW members distributed thousands of VFW fire prevention and home security checklists.

### Drive to Survive

This three-hour course teaches good drivers to be better drivers. It is designed to prevent traffic accidents by showing drivers how to recognize road hazards, understand defenses against such hazards and take timely preventive measures. Law enforcement agencies cooperate with VFW Posts and Auxiliaries by providing traffic specialists to assist with instruction.

### Bicycle Safety

The bicycle's current popularity, combined with grim new accident statistics, makes cycling a major safety concern. Accidents can be greatly reduced if proper instruction is provided. VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary present two programs concerning bicycle safety: Lite-A-Bike and Safe Bicycling.

Lite-A-Bike, one of the most effective VFW community service activities, has provided reflective tape for more than 30 million bicycles since the program's inception. VFW and Auxiliary members affix pre-cut strips of reflective tape that illuminate and silhouette bicycles.

Many police and fire departments, PTA groups and other civic and fraternal organizations lend support and assistance to this life-saving program.

Safe Bicycling, a Post/Auxiliary-sponsored effort, presents audiovisual material in local elementary school classrooms. It provides children with the essentials of bicycle safety. All schools are equipped to utilize the program.

### Recognition and Public Commendation

Certificates of Appreciation are available from the VFW Emblem and Supply Department. Citations are prepared for law enforcement agencies and officers, fire departments and individual firefighters and emergency medical technicians.

### Veterans Fight Drugs

VFW's Drug Abuse program is an action-oriented effort designed to help in controlling and eliminating illegal drug use. VFW-sponsored seminars conducted by trained law enforcement officers provide adults with information to combat drugs.

### Hunter Safety

This educational program is sponsored by Posts and Auxiliaries in coordination with state wildlife agencies. Its primary purpose is to promote safe firearms han-

dling, ethical conduct afield, and the importance of abiding by hunting laws and regulations.

Overall, the Safety Program played a vital role during 1988-89 in communities across the nation as well as overseas, confirming a fundamental VFW principle—"We Remember."

### Report of Voice of Democracy

FRED SIGMON, *Chairman*

GORDON THORSON, *Director*

Voice of Democracy is a broadcast-scriptwriting scholarship program designed to give high school students the opportunity to voice their opinions on patriotic themes, and to convey their thoughts via the broadcasting medium to America.

Students in grades 10 through 12 in public, parochial and private schools in the United States and overseas are eligible to compete.

This year's theme—"Preparing for America's Future"—focused on preparation for playing a role in the nation's future.

More than 137,000 students participated. Over 4,500 Posts and 3,400 Auxiliaries sponsored the program in 6,400 secondary schools. Over 5,300 radio and TV stations supported the program.

Scholarships, savings bonds and other awards totaled over \$990,000 on the Post, District, County Council and Department levels. National scholarships contributed another \$42,500.

The contest is conducted in cooperation with the National and State Associations of Broadcasters and the State Superintendents and Commissioners of Education.

State winners received, in addition to their scholarships, all-expense-paid trips to Washington, D.C., in March. While there, they visited national shrines, monuments, observed firsthand the workings of the government and met with President Bush.

State winners, sponsored by their respective Departments, also attended the American Academy of Achievement's Salute to Excellence Weekend in San Francisco, Calif., in June.

Each winner received the academy's Golden Scroll Award and was enrolled in the academy's Hall of Fame for America's Young Captains of Achievement. The first-place national winner received the academy's Golden Eagle Award for the Promise of Greatness.

#### 1988-89 Voice of Democracy National Scholarship Winners

| Place | Winner                   | Location               | Post | Prize    | Award                                  |
|-------|--------------------------|------------------------|------|----------|----------------------------------------|
| 1st   | Carolyn McCrimmon .....  | Evergreen, Colo .....  | 8991 | \$16,000 | T.C. Selman Memorial                   |
| 2nd   | Robert S. Barker .....   | Noblesville, Ind ..... | 6904 | 9,000    | Scholarship                            |
| 3rd   | Jason Phillips .....     | Xenia, Ohio .....      | 2402 | 6,000    | Scholarship                            |
| 4th   | Dilip Paliath .....      | Towson, Md .....       | 9083 | 4,000    | Scholarship                            |
| 5th   | Jon "Trent" Warner ..... | Layton, Utah .....     | 8307 | 3,000    | Scholarship                            |
| 6th   | Heidi Johnson .....      | Edina, Minn .....      | 3144 | 1,500    | Joseph O. Hansen Scholarship           |
| 7th   | Guy Bourgault .....      | Laconia, N.H. ....     | 1670 | 1,000    | Francis J. Tallman Memorial            |
| 8th   | Troy Nelson .....        | Rugby, N.D. ....       | 1861 | 1,000    | Robert A. Stock Memorial               |
| 9th   | Ashley R. Kellogg .....  | Huntsville, Ala .....  | 2702 | 1,000    | Walter & Doris Marshall<br>Scholarship |

### Report of Youth Activities

DONALD NIKKEL, *Chairman*

GORDON THORSON, *Director*

VFW recognizes the importance of shaping America's youth. Providing wholesome activities that stress fair play and good citizenship has been the goal and guiding principle of the National Youth Activities Committee. Some of the major youth programs include:

### **Sons of the VFW**

This activity is for boys whose parents or grandparents are eligible for VFW membership. VFW Posts currently sponsor 20 active units.

### **Boy Scouts of America (BSA)**

Some 1,200 Posts sponsor Boy Scout units. An equal number support the VFW-BSA partnership by providing adult leadership, meeting space, Americanism materials and safety aids to thousands of Cub packs, Scout troops and Explorer posts. Twelve VFW outstanding Scouters were selected from six regions to receive Wood-badger scholarships. This annual program provides recognition and incentives for members serving Boy Scouting in leadership roles.

### **Junior Rifle Clubs**

VFW and the National Rifle Association (NRA) provide an opportunity for boys and girls to receive training in gun safety and marksmanship and to experience the fellowship and competition of rifle club activity. An individual and team postal match are conducted annually. NRA furnishes aids for affiliated Junior Rifle Clubs of VFW Posts and Sons of the VFW Units.

### **Youth Bowling**

Teams sponsored by Posts in every Department provide instruction and competition for boys and girls in one of the nation's favorite pastimes.

### **Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC)**

If a school in your area sponsors an ROTC program, this is an opportunity for your Post to become active in youth programs. The VFW-ROTC awards for special recognition of outstanding achievement and exceptional leadership are available for Junior and Senior ROTC programs.

### **Special Olympics**

A major VFW and Ladies Auxiliary fund-raising effort allows one million mentally impaired children to participate in the Special Olympics.

### **Miscellaneous Sports**

Posts are active in all types of youth sports in addition to baseball, basketball, football, ice hockey, swimming, wrestling, golf and tennis. Hundreds of other youth activities have been documented in reports from more than 8,000 VFW Posts during the past year. VFW has also endorsed Junior Olympics. Brochures and pertinent information are available from National Headquarters.

### **Child Identification**

VFW, in keeping with its commitment to community service, provides free child identification booklets to Posts and Auxiliaries. This enables local units to conduct identification and fingerprinting programs.

### **American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO)**

VFW has officially endorsed AYSO. Founded in Los Angeles in 1964, AYSO is dedicated not only to the promotion of youth soccer but also to assisting young men and women in becoming productive citizens. AYSO philosophy ensures that each child plays at least half a game. A balanced team concept also creates a healthy competitive atmosphere.

### **Pledge of Allegiance Coloring Book**

The Pledge of Allegiance Coloring Book is geared for children in grades 1 through 4. It affords children the opportunity to learn the Pledge of Allegiance correctly as well as enjoy coloring the nation's Flag and other patriotic scenes. Included is a map of the United States which is useful in teaching geography. The books can be presented on behalf of the Post and/or Ladies Auxiliary. Patriotic programs, Pledge of Allegiance cards, small Flags and similar patriotic materials can also be presented along with the book.

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